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Yeltsin, Bush Agree on Arms Reductions

ITAR-TASS reports that on 16 June, the presidents of the United States and Russia announced "a major breakthrough...in talks on reducing strategic offensive arms." Both sides agreed "to reduce their nuclear arsenals to between 3,000 and 3,500 nuclear warheads each," "no later than the year 2003." Russian President Boris Yeltsin, in a speech at a White House dinner, said: "I think this is the greatest day of my life. Mr. Bush, the President of a great power—the United States of America—and I today decided to cut strategic nuclear warheads by two-thirds by the year 2000." The accord specifies two phases for reductions, and each nation will determine "its own force structure within" the specified "range" of reductions.

Also during his U.S. visit, President Yeltsin anounced "that Russia may have information about the fate of some" U.S. POW-MIAs, reports ITAR-TASS. According to Yeltsin, a commission was set up to study this issue. "New information is being uncovered, he added, stressing here that 'whereas they used to say that this question did not exist and that we had no American prisoners of war, many facts have now emerged confirming that we did have prisoners of war, and it is possible that some have even survived and are still on our territory.' The commission's work will be seen through to the end, B. Yeltsin added, and 'we shall do everything to clarify the fate of every American who fell into captivity in our country.'"

Yeltsin Decrees on Bankruptcy, Chemical Weapons

Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a bankruptcy decree for insolvent state enterprises "which determines the procedure for their liquidation or restructuring," INTERFAX reports. When a business cannot "fulfill its obligations to creditors" or has "long term loans out worth more than twice as much as the value" of its property, the enterprise may declare bankruptcy. Within a month of the declaration, the decision to liquidate or restructure an enterprise will be made "by the state or local committees for managing Russian property," after which "an auction of the sale of its property or of the enterprise itself is held."

A presidential committee has been authorized by decree to submit proposals to the government on the "stage-by-stage creation of facilities for destroying chemical weapons." The decree offers "some benefits and perks to people working in this field" and provides for "diagnostic centers" to examine regularly personnel and "those resident within a 15km zone around the facilities."

Russian Supreme Soviet Restricts Press

According to Moscow TV, the Supreme Soviet of Russia "introduced restrictive measures on the press." From now on, only ITAR-TASS, RIA, and INTERFAX press agencies will be allowed to have representatives "admitted to Presidium sessions."

Shevardnadze Says Georgia in 'State of War'

Moscow Television reports that Tskhinvali, South Ossetia, has been under rocket and mortar attack "for the fourth consecutive day." Citing Ossetian sources, the report notes that 80 percent of the homes have been destroyed and all its enterprises are "out of order." After meeting with military and police representatives, State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze noted that "Georgia is now effectively in a state of war and that police operations are exceptionally difficult under these conditions," Moscow Radio reports.

Kravchuk Reiterates Nuclear-Free Pledge

LD1606155292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1529 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Sergey Batyrev and Viktor Demidenko—TASS]

[Text] Paris June 16 TASS—Ukraine reiterated its pledge to become nuclear-free in a treaty on mutual understanding and cooperation signed with France by presidents of the two countries on Tuesday [16 June].

The treaty also envisages further development of bilateral ties, as well as interaction between the two states in international organisations. The two countries will hold immediate consultations in case a threat to peace emerges. The main direction of cooperation between Ukraine and France is "to build a peaceful Europe based on principles of solidarity".

President of France Francois Mitterrand welcomed the signing of the treaty saying his country is happy to have an opportunity of discussing major international affairs with a new partner.

The treaty is the first such document in our history, President Kravchuk of Ukraine said. It is very important that the document covers all spheres of cooperation—from politics and economics to culture and environmental protection. "I hope the document will contribute to building a peaceful and united Europe", the president said.

Also on Tuesday Kravchuk signed the Paris Charter making Ukraine the 52nd party to the basic treaty on security and cooperation in Europe.

This event signifies an end to the policy of blocs, Mitterand underlined, adding Europe is accepting Ukraine as a one hundred per cent European state.

By signing the Paris Charter Ukraine reiterated its commitment to observe the principles of the Helsinki process, Kravchuk told TASS after the signing ceremony.

Ukraine will do everything possible to ensure, together with other states, a lasting peace and security on the continent and promote its further democratisation and human rights protection, the president added.

Further on Academicians Urge To Shut Reactors

PM1206202192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Jun 92 p 2

[Report by K. Belyaninov: "Academy of Sciences 'Goes Green'?]

[Text] Public opinion has long since suspected that nuclear power stations figure next in the list of Russia's perennial nuisances after interethnic conflicts, economic reforms, and price rises on vodka. And last week a group of experts from the Academy of Sciences and the State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety at last subscribed to this conclusion, proposing that first-generation nuclear reactors of the high-power pressure-tube and water-cooled type should be decommissioned ahead of schedule. The experts believe that economic benefit from their operation cannot be traded off against their potential danger. The group proposed shutting down the third and fourth units of the Novovoronezh AES [nuclear electric power station], the first and second units of the Kolsk, Kursk, and Leningrad AES's, and the first, second, and third units of the Smolensk AES.

"First generation reactors really need to be decommissioned," Academician Yevgeniy Velikhov, vice president of the Russian Academy of Sciences says. "It is too expensive to modernize them, or even somehow improve their safety."

The Russian Academy of Sciences Presidium, while agreeing with the conclusions of the group of experts, believes that there can be no question of the immediate decommissioning of all the units: Despite the existence of the Unified Power Generation System, a very severe power shortage would inevitably arise if the stations were shut down.

"The power losses will have to be compensated for locally, replacing the nuclear power station shut down in each oblast with a thermal or hydroelectric station," Velikhov says. "But right now this is impossible. That is why we have proposed, firstly to complete the construction of new-generation reactors of the water-cooled type, and switch to the construction of nuclear heat-supply stations. And secondly, the power losses can be partially compensated for by gas turbine stations. Gas will for the time being remain the only cheap, long-term fuel, and the aviation industry is prepared to take on the production of turbines.

The Russian Ministry for Atomic Energy remains dissatisfied with the Russian Academy of Science's conclusions. Ministry experts claim that the reactors are entirely safe, and shutting them down threatens losses in the order of $642 billion. The calculations of scientists, even including members of the Russian Academy of Sciences, have always been viewed in Russia [merely] as recommendations.

Commonwealth

Leaders To Discuss Economy, Environment, Army

OW1606181992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On June 26 the CIS prime ministers will gather in Minsk to discuss a wide range of economic, environmental and military issues. Coordinator of the CIS's working group Ivan Korotchenya told IF [INTERFAX] that "the economic agenda will be vast as usual". The prime ministers will discuss ways of coordinating measures to protect the interests of the states belonging to the rouble zone in case national currencies are introduced. On June 26 the prime ministers may agree on uniform regulation of passenger and freight tarriffs.

They will also lay common approaches to the clean-up operations in Chernobyl, to the elimination of the consequences of the quake in Armenia, to the solution of the Aral problem and to rational utilization of the biological resources of the Caspian Sea.

Weekly INTERFAX 'Trade & Investment' News

OW1606041692

[Editorial Report] Moscow INTERAX in English, as received via Tokyo KYODO at 1855 GMT on 11 June, carries its weekly "Trade & Investment" feature. The following stories concerning investment are carried within the "Headline News" section of the feature: INTERNATIONAL RUSSIA DEVELOPMENT OFFERS TO INVEST $3.5 BILLION IN RUSSIAN METALLURGY

The International Russia Development Company (IRDC), an international company specializing in attracting investment in Russia's economy, has offered to lend $3.5 billion to Russian metallurgical enterprises for purchasing modern equipment and renovations. The metallurgical enterprises are to discharge the debt over a ten-year period by export deliveries of their production. IRDC, which was founded by a number of Russian foreign trade firms, the Swiss company Komplexim, and the British firm Tudor, has also announced that it has reached an agreement with Western financial institutions on the possibility of extending several billion dollars worth of credit to Russian enterprises. FIRST MOSCOW APARTMENT SOLD TO JAPANESE CITIZEN

The first instance of the sale of an apartment to a Japanese citizen was registered in Moscow. The General Director of a firm Mr. Nisikawa was the recipient. METALS REMAIN ESTONIA'S BASIC EXPORT

Since the beginning of 1992, Estonia has been a major export intermediary for metals from Russia and the Baltics. Customs officials estimate that 20,000 tons of non-ferrous and more than 100,000 tons of scrap were exported through Estonia in the first quarter of this year. Finnish figures for the first quarter indicate that 35.6% of Estonian exports to Finland (through which much of the exported metals reach the world market) were ferrous metals; non-ferrous metals constituted 4.3% of export. Most of the metal Estonia exports comes from Russia. Some of the metal is delivered under the terms of direct agreements, but a separate agreement between the Russian and Estonian Governments stipulates that Russia is to deliver 113 tons of ferrous metal scrap, 11,400 tons of pipe and 42,000 tons of aluminum to Estonia in 1992. These shipments have not yet begun. In March of this year, the Estonian Government temporarily stopped issuing export licenses after discovering instances of illegal export, but protests from businesses forced the government to resume licensing.

According to information from the Estonian trade licensing board, current export quotas for Estonia in 1992 are as follows:

	Re-export (in tons)	Export(in tons)
Non-ferrous metals	70,000	5,000
Non-ferrous scrap	250,000	5,000
Ferrous metals	25,000	15,000
Ferrous scrap	39,000	91,000

TATARSTAN TO DEVELOP SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS AND BUILD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Tatarstan has reached an agreement with several Swiss banks on financing large-scale international projects on the territory of that Russian republic. (Tatarstan, however, is still refusing to sign the Russian Federation Treaty.) After returning from an extended trip abroad, Tatarstan's President Mintimer Shaimiyev announced that the republic intends to place primary emphasis on developing international communications by establishing satellite communications systems and by rebuilding an airport in the city of Kazan. He said that Canadian firms are prepared to help with rebuilding the site with the aim of transforming it into an international airport. MOST HARD CURRENCY SHOPS ARE STILL REFUSING TO LEVY VAT

By the end of June the situation should clarify as to whether or not Moscow's hard currency shops will, after all, be obliged to pay the controversial 28% VAT tax on sales. Mr. Gerhard Gritzer, manager of the Julius Meini TIM Supermarket, who in April organized Moscow's hard currency grocers in their protest against the tax, expects to have a meeting with the relevant officals very soon. YAKUTIA STARTS ISSUING LICENSES TO MINE PRECIOUS METALS.

Yakutia has started to issue licenses for the right to develop gold and mineral deposits. License are only issued if a general plan for the development of the deposit has been submitted. According to experts from the gold mining industry, by the end of the year, dozens of companies which have received licenses should mine up to 15-20 tons of gold.

The Yakutia government commission for underground resources will consider more than 2000 applications this

year. Enterprises which have deposits of precious metals and minerals on their balances will have to re-register their licenses.

The commission has issued the first licenses to the Progress gold miners' cooperative which belongs to the Zoloto Yakutia concern. Progress is allowed to mine coal in the Momsk region in Yakutia. The Zapolyarnaya geological survey expedition will mine for precious and semi-precious stones in the Ust-Yansk region, while the administration of the Verkhne-Vilyuisky region has recived access to scatterred gold deposits on the Vilyui river (with possible reserves of 1-3 tons of gold). SIBERIAN ENTERPRISES BUY MEAT FACTORIES IN EXCHANGE FOR ALUMINIUM

The Bogoslavsky aluminium factory (Krasnoyarsk, Western Siberia) and the Altaisky motor factory (Barnaul, Western Siberia) have bought two meat processing plants worth a total of $2 million in a barter deal in which they supplied aluminium goods. The factories, which will be equipped by the Austrian company Interconsalt, should be ready to operate by the end of this year. In addition to this, Interconsalt will also build a brewery worth DM 700,000 ($440,000) at the Bogoslavsky aluminium factory. LITHUANIAN GOVERNMENT WORKS ON FREE TRADE ZONE CONCEPT

Lithuania's Government has launched work on drawing up a concept for a free entrepreneurship zone around the Klaipeda sea-port. It is planned that the zone, which is expected to cover 100 hectares, will be leased to a Western firm for 99 years.

Media

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 17 Jun

LD1706053692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0510 GMT 17 Jun 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, June 17 TASS—The first state visit of the Russian president to the United States is highlighted by all Moscow-based newspapers on Wednesday [17 June]. The visit can be easily called an historic one: It is called to confirm the new status of relations between Russia and the United States as partners in world affairs, the "ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA" writes. The daily quoted U.S. President George Bush as saying that the visit is a rare opportunity to move ahead in many directions, including help to Russian reforms. The newspaper publishes the text of welcoming speeches exchanged by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. State Secretary James Baker at the Andrews Air Force Base, reports on the welcoming ceremony at the White House and informs about the talk of Yeltsin with Russian writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn now living in the United States.

The newspaper also published a summary of the interview George Bush had given to the CNN network on the eve of the visit. It quotes the U.S. President as saying he resolutely supports the lawbill envisaging considerable economic aid to Russia.

"Russia Was Not Born To Beg", the "NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA" headlined its comment to the visit, quoting the words of Boris Yeltsin which he had said upon arrival to Washington. The main aim of the visit is to confirm and promote friendly contacts between the top leaders of both states and between the countries, it quoted Yeltsin as saying. The friendship between the two presidents is both of personal and principled character and it seems Bush and Yeltsin realise it, the daily stressed.

It also informs that a big number of documents is expected to be signed at the meeting, including a framework agreement on further strategic arms cuts.

The ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA believes the work of the tripartite commission on settling social and labour disputes will yield no results. The commission includes representaties of the Russian Government, trade unions and employers. "If one looks what has been done by it he will see no practical results", it said. To solve social and labour disputes in reality the commission has to stop political rhetorics, the newspaper believes.

Reports from hotbeds in the Commonwealth are highlighted by most newspapers. They note that the statement of Russian parliamentary speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov on the situation in South Ossetia was welcomed by the leaders of the neighbouring North Ossetia. However, Georgian armed units assessed the statement as "an infringement on Georgian sovereignty" and began a new massive shelling of Tskhinvali.

The whole of the Caucasus is turning into a region of military activities, the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes. The Azeri offensive which began on June 12 in Nagorno-Karabakh is the most fierce one in the history of the conflict, it notes. Armenia and Azerbaijan are on the brink of a large-scale war which can begin any day, the newspaper warned.

The daily also informs about the visit of President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine to France. "While Russia wants to act as an equal partner of the United States on the world arena, Ukraine is obliged by its geographic position to assert itself in Europe", it commented.

The ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA outlines the speech of Mikhail Poltoranin, the Russian information minister and deputy premier, delivered to one of the parliamentary commissions. "Any attempt to interfere into the law on mass media will have undesirable political consequences," he warned. Speaking on a hard-line rally going on near the TV centre, Poltoranin said the opposition's demands cannot be fulfilled as it wants both to control TV programmes and possess part of the property of the centre, including TV equipment. "Those people have lost all common sense", he said.

International Affairs

More on Yeltsin, Bush Washington Summit Meeting

IZVESTIYA Previews Visit

PM1606133192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jun 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 4

[Aleksandr Shalnev report; "America Meets the First President of Russia. Washington Will Bestow the Highest Honors on B. Yeltsin. But No Sensations Are Expected"]

[Text] We always do everything at the last minute. On 14 June, only 24 hours or so before the beginning of Boris Yeltsin's visit to the United States, the Russian Embassy in Washington was flooded with a deluge of telegrams from Moscow demanding that certain things be specified, clarified, and agreed urgently—things that could have easily been specified, clarified, and agreed a few days ago and are completely impossible to sort out during the weekend, since the American capital is deserted then.

No exception was made for the Russian president's visit: No one could be found in the state establishments.

I am 90-percent certain that two or three years ago official Washington would have stood on its head, even on a Sunday, to accommodate a visit by the top Soviet leader, regardless of who it was—Gorbachev, Yeltsin, or anyone else—even if it was just to deal with the thousands and thousands of reporters who would have gathered in the capital to cover the summit.

This time there will probably not even be 500 reporters coming in. For the first time in all these summit meetings, as I happened to find out, no summit press center has been set up and, as things stood by the end of 14 June, not a single briefing had been held, although in the past, there used to be half a dozen a day in the State Department, in the White House, and in the Pentagon.

Evidently for the first time in all the summits of recent years, the U.S. President has not met with representatives of our press, although there were requests for interviews with him from IZVESTIYA among others. As was explained to me in the White House, George Bush believes that the press conference that he will be holding with Boris Yeltsin on 16 June will be quite adequate. However, final press conferences were held in the past, and this did not prevent American presidents, and notably Bush himself, from giving advance interviews to our reporters.

So the U.S. President has given no interviews, but a "summit" characteristic of a different kind does remain: As IZVESTIYA has already written, a meeting of the highest category will be organized for the Russian president; he will even manage to do what America's darling, Mikhail Gorbachev, never managed to do—speak at a joint session of both houses of Congress.

Even with this speech, even with all the salutes, the bands, and the celebration dinners, Yeltsin's visit will be an ordinary state visit of which Washington sees dozens every year. The dinner, the Congress, the salutes, and everything else all amount, according to protocol, to routine treatment for foreign heads of state and government coming to Washington on state visits—not every single one, obviously, but many.

The Russian president's visit will be one of these many. As I understand from conversations with diplomats who prepared the visit, we wanted this ourselves, we wanted to be the same as others. It seems to me, admittedly, that even if we wanted something more, the Americans would not give it to us anyway. Russia is not the Soviet Union, and the problems that used to be a question of life and death in the past, as THE NEW YORK TIMES noted, no longer exist. If, say, five years ago the signing of the treaty on medium-range nuclear missiles had fallen through at a Washington summit between Gorbachev and Reagan, then the whole world would undoubtedly have been cast into depression and fear. If something goes wrong this time, and Yeltsin and Bush are not able to ratify the agreement on strategic arms despite expectations, then the world will most probably not attach excessive significance to the fact, let alone be terror-struck.

The United States and Russia have stopped being enemies, and the fears that the world lived with for almost half a century have moved far into the background, or else have disappeared altogether. However, even though they have stopped being enemies, foreign policy expert Thomas Friedman reminds us, Russia and the United States have not become allies. When Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, standing outside the White House, stated this week that "Russia does not need these weapons; we do not intend to use them against the United States" (the strategic nuclear missiles which were the subject of his talks with Secretary of State James Baker—A.Sh.), Baker, who was standing close by, did not add: "And we do not need our missiles...."

In general, the subject of missiles will scarcely be at the center of the agenda for the talks, although it will undoubtedly be paid a lot of attention. The emphasis will be placed on political and socioeconomic questions. As I understand it, the Americans told our side right out during the preparations for the visit that they would like to obtain from Yeltsin and his delegation—but mainly from Yeltsin—the most detailed, extensive, and precise information about what is happening in our country. The substance of this information will of course determine a colossal number of things, and this includes the way Washington starts resolving the other basic theme of the summit, which THE NEW YORK TIMES put in very straightforward terms: "For many Americans Mr. Yeltsin is just another foreign leader trying to get money

out of Washington which should be used for America itself, for example for its cities."

I therefore do not tend to share the viewpoint of commentators who believe that the summit will benefit Bush as presidential candidate because Bush will be able to demonstrate his strongest side—his qualities as an outstanding specialist on foreign policy problems. Events in recent months have shown that Bush has a lot of blanks and failures behind him here: His winter visit to Japan was disastrous, and not just because he was sick in public; Bush's very recent trip to Panama, where he was met by anti-American demonstrations and tear gas, and to the global conference in Rio de Janeiro, where he found himself in almost complete isolation on key environmental issues, were a virtual fiasco.

Even if Bush had come out "on top" in all those places, it would have been of little concern to the American electorate, just as it will be of little concern to them whether Bush and Yeltsin prove able to sign an agreement on nuclear missiles. But it certainly will worry Americans how much money Bush promises Russia and on what terms.

So that we have no illusions on this score, I will note that last Friday a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives voted in favor of cutting foreign aid programs by over $1 billion. This $1 billion includes $33 million of ours, of Russia's, meant for us. It was cut as a protest against the Bush administration's failure to respond adequately to America's "domestic" problems.

Commentary on Visit

LD1306213992 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Valentin Zorin commentary]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin begins his visit to the United States early next week.

I would not be too optimistic about this event despite its certain remarkable character since it will be the first ever official visit by Russia's first president elected nationwide to the United States. For we have seen so many such solemn red carpet receptions accompanied with artillery Salvos recently. What interests the Russian public opinion most of all is whether Boris Yeltsin's trip across the ocean will produce positive results. In this connection I would like to quote the US ambassador in Moscow, Robert Strauss, as saying that Boris Yeltsin will have to convince the Americans that they were interested in the successful outcome of the Russian reforms, the more so that the program of economic aid to Russia worked out by the Bush Administration got firmly stuck in the US Congress. Some believe it will be passed by autumn at best if at all.

There has been a certain fuss in the United States over the so-called Russian (?middle-camping). Apparently some Russian exporters have sold uranium, aluminum and other metals at lower prices. But it seems their actions, which can be explained by lack of experience rather than sordid motives, must be corrected in a civilized manner. Perhaps some will find [words indistinct] too gloomy. If so, I would gladly acknowledge my mistake. But these fears need to be spoken about given their wide spread in the Moscow political and public circles.

PRAVDA Previews Visit

PM1706084192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jun 92 pp 1, 3

[Vladislav Drobkov report under the rubric "On the Spot": "Russian President's First Official Visit to United States"]

[Text] Washington, 15 Jun—Washington is preparing to give Boris Yeltsin a ceremonial reception according to all the rules of protocol. The state flags of the Russian Federation and the United States have been hoisted outside the White House and Blair House, where the Russian president is due to stay, which stands opposite. On 16 June, Boris Yeltsin and George Bush are due to exchange speeches on the White House lawn in front of a select audience of U.S. and Russian politicians and public figures, diplomats, businessmen, and journalists.

Then talks will begin.

They will be conducted by the heads of the two states on their own and together with their ministers and advisers. On 17 June, the Russian president will address U.S. legislators at a joint session of both houses of the U.S. Congress—an honor hitherto bestowed on just a few foreign heads of state.... and the pensioner Gorbachev.

The first official visit promises to be intense and packed with major political events. The U.S. press and local politicians are devoting considerable attention to the forthcoming visit, and in the overwhelming majority of cases, are expressing the hope that it will aid the cause of strengthening links between the two countries, boost U.S. support for the transformations under way in Russia, and lead to further reductions in nuclear weapons. It is also being frankly stated and written here that the success of the visit is equally important for both presidents. Both Yeltsin, who is conducting tough reforms, and Bush, who is seeking reelection, are being subjected to growing criticism at home, and their popularity is falling.

It has reached the point where public opinion polls in the United States give the U.S. President the support of not more than one-third of Americans. He is falling ever more noticeably behind the billionaire Ross Perot, who has not yet officially announced his candidacy but is participating increasingly actively in the election campaign. Russian polls also testify to growing dissatisfaction with the president's policy. In such circumstances, the prestigious commentator Charles Kraut Hammer

remarks, some impressive gesture in the foreign policy sphere is important to both presidents.

It is believed in Washington that the most advantageous thing from this point of view would be an agreement on new reductions in strategic arsenals, significantly larger than those envisaged by the Treaty on the Limitation and Reduction of Strategic Offensive Arms [START] signed last year by George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev. Incidentally, this treaty has not yet come into force, since it has not been ratified by the parliaments of the signatory states.

At first sight, it is not so very difficult to achieve success in accomplishing this task, since back on the eve of their working meeting at Camp David in February, George Bush and Boris Yeltsin made new proposals on limiting the two countries' strategic weapons. Bush asserted his readiness to reduce the number of U.S. nuclear warheads to 4,700. Yeltsin proposed making still more resolute reductions—to 2,500. Moreover, he asserted that Russian missiles are no longer aimed at the United States, which gave rise to some confusion in local military circles, but, alas, did not prompt reciprocity in the White House or the Pentagon.

It was presumed that the two countries' disarmament experts and diplomats would be able to square the two presidents' proposals before the Russian president's official visit to Washington. Efforts were indeed made in this direction, and extremely active ones at that.

Last week these efforts took on an extremely dramatic character. There were Foreign Minister Kozyrev's one and a half days of intense and virtually fruitless talks in Washington, his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Baker in London, their constant telephone conversations, a message to Bush from Yeltsin, and the Russian president's statements on the unacceptability of unilateral concessions to Washington, the contradictory reports of news agencies, television, and the newspapers....

All this increased the pressure and provoked doubts over the very possibility of achieving accord. At the same time, it was perfectly obvious to the majority of commentators and specialists in the sphere of arms control that the crux of the disagreements boils down to the quite unceremonious desire of the Pentagon and the White House to foist on Moscow terms for the missile deal which they know to be disadvantageous.

Thus, Washington insisted on the destruction in the first instance of Russia's most powerful land-based missiles, the SS-18's. They sought to stave off for as long as possible, reductions in their own nuclear strike forces—submarine-based ballistic missiles.

Even many U.S. politicians and authorities in the disarmament sphere have criticized the administration's shortsighted and self-seeking course. Washington has been, quite simply, "spoiled" by Moscow's readiness to make concessions and accept proposals advantageous to one side only, Raymond Garthoff, an authority here in the arms control sphere, acknowledged.

It should be said that the U.S. press and U.S. politicians do not balk at calling on the administration to act at the meeting with the Russian president primarily on the basis of U.S. interests. As we can see, the panhuman values of the new political thinking have not become too ingrained here.

Yes, the United States is certainly in no hurry to meet Russia's initiatives halfway if these initiatives are not to the Pentagon's liking. This is what happened, for instance, with Boris Yeltsin's proposal to halt underground tests of nuclear weapons. Recently a number of papers here reported that the White House would probably assent to Russia's call to some extent. Especially since another country which conducts underground explosions—France—has agreed to introduce a moratorium. Indeed, a fair number of supporters of this idea were found even in the U.S. Congress, but this did turn out to be the case at all. The Pentagon asserted that the continuation of tests is necessary to maintain the combat readiness of U.S. nuclear forces. The President's press secretary, Fitzwater, denied the newspapers' statements.

The one Russian initiative which the United States has taken to its heart is our participation in the "Star Wars" program. Possible cooperation with Russia in the project currently being prepared in the United States to create a joint ballistic missile early warning center—one element of the modernized Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) concept—is being discussed increasingly actively in Washington at the present time. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker noted with satisfaction after his talks with Kozyrev in Washington "significant coincidence" between the sides' standpoints on this issue. He expressed the hope that "the two presidents will be able to reach agreement on this problem when they get together."

I would remind you that at the beginning of this year, Boris Yeltsin expressed Russia's readiness to join in the implementation of SDI. Initially, this proposal somewhat disheartened the Americans, indeed, not just them. Subsequently, Washington reached the conclusion that limited participation by the Russians in a project which, until recently they had criticized so much, could strengthen the position of "Star Wars" advocates in the United States itself.

Difficulties in our relations with the United States are not limited to the sphere of arms control and banning nuclear tests. So far there is no visible progress either on the extremely important problem for Russia of U.S. economic aid. As for commitments made by Bush at his meeting with Yeltsin in February to increase U.S. financial and economic aid to Russia, the administration prefers not to make any special mention of this topic.

This is not surprising—the promises have so far remained just promises. Russia can hardly count on large-scale support in the near future from the IMF or the World Bank. It is no secret that the decisive influence in both these organizations belongs to Washington.

Thus, on the eve of the meeting of the two presidents, no matter how sumptuously or solemnly they are preparing to hold it here, it can be stated that the U.S. Administration is prepared to meet Russia's proposals and aspirations only where, and only to the extent that, they correspond to U.S. national interests as they are understood in the White House.

Well—this is a natural and entirely legitimate aspiration for our partners. One would like to hope that the other side in the course of the forthcoming official visit will also be guided above all by its own interests.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Previews Visit

PM1606094592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jun 92 pp 1, 3

[Article by Captain First Rank V. Kuzar, member of the editorial collegium and international department editor: "Moscow-Washington: New Meeting Will Not Be Easy"]

[Text] The Russian president's first official visit to the United States is starting. Over the next two days, diplomats, journalists, and experts will have a considerable amount of work to do. You only have to take a look at the program for the visit to see this for yourself. The Russian president is to have talks with G. Bush both one-on-one and with a delegation. B. Yeltsin will speak at a joint session of the houses of the U.S. Congress (an honor few foreign politicians have been given) and take part in other official events. A number of documents will be signed on the results of the talks and a news conference will be held by the two presidents. Yeltsin will also visit the city of Wichita in Kansas and speak at the university there, look at meat processing technology at the Dold firm's factory, and visit Greg Rau's private farm. The Russian president will then head for Ottawa, where Russian-Canadian talks will be held.

That is the official program for the visit, and there is no doubt that it will be carried out without special difficulties, but as for the content of the talks, this is a separate matter. Compared with previous summits, which always passed off with difficulty, the present one has a number of peculiarities. Above all, this summit meeting will take place in qualitatively new conditions. In a situation where, after the end of the period of confrontation and the USSR's collapse, the politically bipolar world turned into a unipolar world, where the United States is the only superpower left. This, and also the demonstration of U.S. military might during the rout of Iraq, is regarded by certain U.S. circles as the dawn of a new era in international relations. An era when Washington can defend its interests from a position of strength.

On the other hand, many people in the United States are suggesting that, because victory in the "cold war" has been won, the White House should now switch to the country's domestic problems. Especially as economic difficulties are causing increasing irritation among Americans at the current administration. This has to be taken into account by Bush, who wants to win the election struggle and become U.S. President for another term.

In regard to Bush's partner at the negotiating table, Yeltsin is appearing—and there can be no argument here—in a clearly different weight category from his predecessors who represented the USSR. Yes, Russia still remains a major nuclear power, and it is this that compels the United States to devote constant attention to us. Unfortunately, for the time being, the Russian president will not be able to offer other evidence that Moscow is a partner equal to Washington. Moreover, the complex mutual relations between the former USSR republics, the continuing economic crisis, and the opposition's increased activity are perceived by certain U.S. politicians as evidence of the instability of Yeltsin's own position, which obviously cannot fail to affect the nature of the Russian-U.S. talks.

Their complexity will also be determined by the fact that the opinion that it is inexpedient to establish equal partnership with Russia in all spheres is becoming increasingly widespread in the United States. Especially as Washington is scarcely interested in our country acquiring a potential enabling it to compete with the United States. I think that the influence of these sentiments was displayed in Washington's actions on the eve of the summit meeting (remember the sanctions against Glavkosmos [Main Administration for the Development and Use of Space Technology for the National Economy and Scientific Research]). They will undoubtedly also make their presence felt during Yeltsin's visit.

Let us take the political aspect of the talks, for example. By all accounts this will find specific expression in the form of a charter of Russian-U.S. relations. The draft, which is reportedly ready for signature, records that the sides do not regard each other as potential enemies and will develop relations of friendship and partnership. The United States is ready to support the current Russian leadership's efforts to create a rule-of-law state and a democratic society in Russia and to assist in implementing economic reform. There are also other points here which underline the draft's importance in developing comprehensive cooperation between the two countries. However, one nuance attracts attention here. The charter is only a declaration, a wish. The United States refused to lend the document the character of a treaty which should be fulfilled. This, if you like, is also an alarming symptom in our relations.

The talks regarding economic cooperation will also be difficult. Although a number of documents have already been prepared for signature. They include, for example, an agreement on protecting investments, which should essentially open the way into the Russian market for U.S. firms. However, the main question is financial support for the reforms being carried out in Russia. From the reports coming in, it can be concluded that the United States intends to postpone resolving this question until the presidential election. Yeltsin will obviously have to

make considerable efforts to convince his partners at the talks of the need for an urgent solution to this problem. However, even if he manages to do this, the U.S. Congress could tie the granting of aid to so many conditions and provisos that its implementation will again be possible no earlier than after the election.

Another topic at the talks is disarmament. At first glance there should be no special problems here—both Russia and the United States advocate deeper strategic arms cuts, but only at first glance. As the last rounds of talks between leaders of the two countries' foreign policy departments showed, Washington would like to gain certain advantages here too. At any rate this was shown during the preparation of the new agreement, when the Americans tried to secure the destruction of SS-18's—our most powerful ground-launched missiles while leaving themselves with naval missiles having the same purpose. In all likelihood the sides will seek a compromise during the summit talks.

Speaking of cutting nuclear weapons, I believe it is high time to switch from purely quantitative parameters to qualitative ones. I mean the process of the improvement of nuclear weapons and other types of weapons. It is, after all, no secret that the United States, for example, is developing new types of nuclear weapons such as the X-ray laser, nuclear shrapnel, and others. Getting experiments in these fields banned now is, it seems to me, even more important than securing a quantitative reduction in existing nuclear weapons.

There are another two problems in this sphere which must, without fail, be discussed during the talks. One of them is ending nuclear explosions for military purposes. Unfortunately, the United States has so far categorically refused to do this, although not so long ago it declared its readiness to accept new restrictions on the number and yield of nuclear explosions. Given all this, the most that can be expected during the talks is an accord on carrying out joint work to monitor the yield of tests.

The second problem is military utilization of space. The United States is continuing to conduct work on the SDI program. Very soon this could come into conflict with the ABM Treaty. Washington intends to avoid this obstacle, the U.S. press reports, by creating the universal missile early warning system whose development was proposed by Yeltsin. Especially as some of our scientists are helping them in this. Those who for their own interests advocate scrapping the treaty, which allegedly hinders the creation of such a system.

In this connection I want to note that the world does, of course, need a universal missile early warning system, and it must be set up jointly. However, when holding talks on this subject it is necessary, I believe, to consider a number of features. First, the ABM Treaty, which is one of the foundations of strategic stability, should be retained by all means. Second, it should be established that we are equal partners in the creation of this system. There must be guarantees that the door is not slammed in our face at a certain stage, as has already happened repeatedly. Finally, Russia should receive full credit for its contribution, for the idea and practical work, not "crumbs from the master's table."

No, the Russian president's mission looks rather difficult. A considerable number of complex questions have to be discussed and considered. Responsible decisions have to be made. That is why I want to wish Yeltsin success. Success in the name of Russia.

'Text' of Yeltsin's Arrival Speech

LD1506160692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1540 GMT 15 Jun 92

["Text of Yeltsin Speech in Washington"—TASS headline]

[Text] Washington June 15 TASS—Mr. Secretary of State, I thank you for your warm words of welcome. Since the very first minutes on the soil of America we feel the warmth of the traditional American hospitality and friendly understanding.

Each meeting enhances that understanding and I hope that this official visit to your country will make an important contribution to the strengthening of Russian-American relations.

The ties between Russia and America are centuries old. Over the recent years we have succeeded to a large extent in melting the ice of mutual suspicion and mistrust. We are no longer adversaries. We see each other as partners and even friends.

Our new relations should be placed as soon as possible on a solid foundation of practical cooperation in various fields.

Russia is ready for a meaningful practical dialogue which is sure to benefit the entire world as well as our two nations.

We have come here to work hard. The proposed agenda includes not only urgent bilateral problems but also major world issues of disarmament and stability enhancement.

My visit to your country is taking place against the backdrop of dynamic changes in Russia. Rising up to challenges the people of Russia are building a society of free economy and free individuals committed to democracy and progress. Every day we feel the growing support for our reforms by the leaders of the United States and by ordinary Americans.

On behalf of the peoples of the Russian Federation I extend my greetings to the great American people and wish all Americans continued success and well-being.

Yeltsin Arrives at White House

LD1606151492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1439 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin, Yuriy Sizov and Andrey Fedyashin]

[Text] Washington June 16 TASS—The Russian national anthem was for the first time played on Tuesday [16 June] at the White House during the welcoming ceremony of Russian President Boris Yeltsin who arrived on his first state visit to the United States.

Presidents Boris Yeltsin and George Bush reviewed the guard of honour. A 21 gun salute then followed.

Top officials from the U.S. Administration, leaders of the Congress, practically the whole of the Diplomatic Corps, outstanding political and public figures, as well as businessmen attended the ceremony.

The top level reception offered to the Russian president reflects not only the new stage of relations between the two countries, their transfer from confrontation to partnership and cooperation, but the historic importance of the visit itself. Both presidents have already declared that they expect from the summit important results on strategic arms cuts, strengthening of interaction between the American and Russian diplomacies in world affairs, a new phase in economic, trade and scientific cooperation between Moscow and Washington.

Yeltsin Speaks at White House

LD1606190692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1640 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Washington, 16 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—In the White House today the new national anthem, the anthem of the new Russia, was heard for the first time in history. [passage omitted]

"Mr. President, esteemed Mrs. Barbara Bush, ladies and gentlemen," Boris Yeltsin said in his reply speech, "I thank the President of the United States for the kind words that he has spoken about Russia, about the Russians, and about the president of the Russian Federation. I greet you and all citizens of the United States on behalf of the peoples of the Russian Federation. I would like to express sincere gratitude to you, Mr. Bush, for your warm reception and hospitality. The first official state visit to the United States by a president of Russia in Russian-American relations begins today.

"The era has ended in which our states treated each other with suspicion and hostility. Today we are starting a new agenda. The prospects for a better world structure and the hopes for resolving global problems have never been so palpable and realistic as they are today. Our states understand increasingly deeply that to cast into the abyss of mutual confrontation the resources of our peoples' lives and minds is not only wasteful but it also runs counter to the vital interests of all states and creates a real threat to their future.

"The bastions of communism were on alert duty for 70 years, and even quite recently they seemed unapproachable. They are gone now. They collapsed without a single shot being fired and without a single victim, having left millions of people feeling deeply disillusioned and bitter. We see our task today in restoring a normal life in Russia and in bringing it back to those values and foundations that have been developed by world human experience. We have not come to ask your country to solve our problems. We have brought with us ideas, concrete proposals, and projects that may form the basis for a wide-scale cooperation between our states and peoples. I know that the American side is prepared to hold the talks precisely in this key. We have something to offer to the American farmer, American industrialist, and American banker.

"Mr President! I am convinced that by establishing partnership in practical matters, both states will become richer, and their peoples will be happier. The foundation to this has already been laid. Both the Americans and the Russians have ceased to see enemies in each other and have made first important steps toward each other. Following the collapse of the wall that isolated our countries, citizens of Russia and America were surprised to discover how similar they are and how close their ideals and aspirations are. They bring up their children, sow bread grain, love their homeland, and wish very much that peace and tranquility would reign in the world and that their families never have to experience danger. The experience of the United States is particularly valuable to us. Our countries and peoples are commensurate both in scale and in character. We share common values with you, and common concerns and hopes. We have a good ground for cooperation. I hope that during the visit we will be able to ensure substantial progress in all spheres of our relations and primarily in the problems of global arms cuts and the development of economic interaction.

"On behalf of our delegation I thank you, Mr. President, Mrs. Bush, all those present, and the soldiers for their warm welcome and hospitality." Immediately after the ceremony the official U.S. and CIS delegations to the summit were presented. Boris Yeltsin and George Bush then began their one-on-one talks. According to the timetable, these should last for 75 minutes. Later, both presidents are to join the delegation participants for talks with an enlarged attendance on problems of security and then on bilateral and economic relations.

Yeltsin on POWs in Russia

LD1606170992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1644 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Vladimir Matyash and Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Washington June 16 TASS—U.S. military pilots who were hit down over the former Soviet Union in "cold war" years might be still alive and kept in Russia, President Boris Yeltsin told TASS on Tuesday [16 June] before the first meeting with President George Bush.

The Commission on U.S. POWs, headed by Dmitriy Volkogonov, continues to work and new facts have been disclosed, according to the president.

"If earlier it was claimed that there was no such problem and we had no American prisoners, nowadays many facts appear which prove the POWs existed and some of them might be still alive and stay on our territory", Yeltsin said.

The commission will fulfill its work till the end and "we shall do everything necessary to clear up the fate of each American who was taken prisoner", he added.

Issues of security and further drastic strategic arms cuts will be in the focus of discussions with the U.S. president, Yeltsin said. "The problem has not been finally settled yet and our foreign ministers, our delegations and the presidents of both countries are to finally decide on the issue", he stressed, adding he is sure "we would find a solution and sign a framework agreement on strategic arms cuts".

Yeltsin Lays Wreath

LD1606201192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1926 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Lebedev]

[Text] Washington, 16 Jun (TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is in the United States on an official state visit, today laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. This memorial was created in honor of Americans who were killed in all the wars which the United States has fought. Every hour the honor guard is changed at the monument of white marble which bears the inscription: "Here lies in eternal glory an American soldier whose name is known only to God."

In a solemn ceremony, B.Yeltsin laid at the memorial, a wreath with the inscription "From the President of Russia" and with a minute's silence he honored the memory of Americans who gave their lives on behalf of the national interests of their motherland. The national anthems of Russia and the United States were played. The honor guard composed of servicemen of all the arms of the U.S. services was drawn up at the tomb. Shots were fired in salute.

During the wreath-laying ceremony the Russian president was accompanied by U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney.

'Tete-a-Tete Talks' Held

LD1706020592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 16 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] I arrived in the United States not with an outstretched hand, but to extend my hand to the U.S. people to incarnate Russian-U.S. partnership in flesh and blood, Boris Yeltsin said in describing the aim of his first official U.S. visit. A festive greetings ceremony was held in the White House for the Russian president. [passage omitted]

The Russian and U.S. Presidents held tete-a-tete talks after the official welcome. The talks did not promise to be easy. It is unclear whether the presidents will sign an agreement on reducing strategic offensive arms. Indeed, assurances on equal partnership rather resemble polite compliments than reflect the real state of affairs, even though both presidents want to appear before their peoples as strong world leaders tackling their internal problems. Hope that the talks will succeed is instilled in Boris Yeltsin's words during the official welcome: Americans and Russians have stopped regarding one another as enemies.

President Yeltsin was asked about the fate of U.S. POWs during a meeting in the Oval Office:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] The commission is working and checking things now. Work continues. Volkogonov leads the commission. A great deal has already been revealed after studying KGB and CPSU Central Committee archives. However, work continues both in the archives and in the places where the POWs were. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Senators Smith and Kerry promulgated the Russian president's letter at a special news conference. Its significance lies in the fact that it ends the process of disinformation and deceit and creates conditions for a qualitive change in the nature of Russian-U.S. relations.

First Meeting Concluded

LD1606191892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1755 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Vladimir Matyash and Yuriy Sizov]

[Excerpts] Washington, 16 Jun (TASS)—The first meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, who arrived here yesterday on an official visit, took place today in the White House. The American head of state warmly welcomed the Russian leader in the Oval Office of the White House, expressing hope for a successful outcome to the political dialogue between the United States and Russia.

The ITAR-TASS correspondents have learned from sources close to the staff of the Russian leader that the first hour and a half of the one-on-one conversation was devoted to a discussion of the main issues on the Russian-U.S. agenda and primarily to its central point—radical cuts in the two countries' strategic nuclear arsenals.

Even on the first day of B. Yeltsin's arrival in Washington, the heads of the foreign policy departments of the two countries were engaged in intensive dialogue well beyond midnight in order to arrive at yet more substantial nuclear arms reductions. As James Baker said, the sides have still to settle four to five issues, "two of which are very important and concern specific problems." Andrey Kozyrev and James Baker confirmed their readiness to work on these, expressing hope of success in this matter.

While the cameramen and press photographers were recording this historic event, Russian correspondents had time to ask two short questions. Answering one of them—on the fate of the U.S. prisoners of war still in the former Soviet Union—the Russian president stated that the commission led by Colonel General Dmitriy Volkogonov "has been working and is still working." New information is being uncovered, he added, stressing here that "whereas they used to say that this question did not exist and that we had no American prisoners of war, many facts have now emerged confirming that we did have prisoners of war, and it is possible that some have even survived and are still on our territory." The commission's work will be seen through to the end, B.Yeltsin commented, and "we shall do everything to clarify the fate of every American who fell into captivity in our country." [passage omitted]

Speaking about the most important, fundamental issues which the presidents of the two countries have to resolve during the summit, the Russian president singled out, above all, security issues and the problems of deep cuts in strategic nuclear weapons. "So far," he said, "this issue has not been settled finally; and, of course, our foreign ministers, our delegations, and the presidents of the two countries will have to find a final settlement of this issue."

B.Yeltsin expressed confidence that "we shall find a solution and sign an outline agreement on strategic offensive weapons."

The summit talks will continue this afternoon in a larger group, with the delegations of the two countries participating. Security issues, the problems of radical cuts in Russia's and the Unisted States' nuclear arsenals, bilateral relations, and trade and economic cooperation will be discussed during the meeting.

Working Lunch Begins, Accord Expected

LD1606183292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1725 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Korolev]

[Text] Washington, 16 Jun—A working lunch has just started at the U.S. State Department, which is being given in honor of Russia's President Boris Yeltsin by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. In the course of the lunch, the sides intend to discuss all as yet unresolved disarmament problems that stand in the way of further reductions in the strategic arsenals of Russia and the United States.

Replying to a question by the ITAR-TASS correspondent prior to the start of the discussions as to whether the sides will manage to bring their positions in the disarmament sphere closer together, Boris Yeltsin said that intensive work is under way in this sphere. "George Bush and I trust one another very much and this is of great importance," he noted. Moreover, the president continued, the secretary of state and our foreign minister "are doing a very great deal of work to prepare these issues, and this means that we will come to an agreement without fail." "By the end of the day you will learn of important events," the Russian president stressed.

'Radical Nuclear Arms Cuts' Set

LD1606195592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1910 GMT 16 JUN 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Vladimir Matyash and Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Washington, 16 Jun—Immediately after a reception at the U.S. State Department in honor of Boris Yeltsin, given by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and the laying of a wreath by Russia's president at the Arlington National Cemetery, a second meeting between the Russian leader and President George Bush began in the White House in the second half of the day. Two rounds of talks with an expanded composition lie ahead. Taking part in them on the Russian side are: Yegor Gaydar, Russian Federation Government first deputy chairman; Andrey Kozyrev, Russian Federation minister of foreign affairs; and Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister; and from the American side, J. Baker; Brent Scowcroft, presidential aide on national security; and other officials.

At the center of attention of participants in the Russian-American talks are key problems of security and deep cuts to strategic offensive weapons, bilateral relations, and trade and economic cooperation.

Presidents Bush and Yeltsin have reached agreement on the question of "radical nuclear arms cuts," Marlin Fitzwater, official representative of the White House and the President's press secretary, stated here today. They have succeeded in settling "difficult vexed questions" concerning strategic offensive weapons, he added, following today's morning meeting. The new treaty will become "an important accord in the sphere of control [kontrol] over armaments, unprecedented in history," stresses the UPI agency.

'Major Breakthrough' Announced

LD1606193792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1906 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin: "The United States and Russia have reached a major breakthrough in the area of further reductions of strategic arsenals: A statement by Presidents Bush and Yeltsin—Flash"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, 16 Jun—The presidents of the United States and Russia have just announced here that a major breakthrough has been achieved in talks on reducing strategic offensive arms. As the U.S. President announced, both sides have reached agreement on a complete elimination of "heavy" ["tyazhelyy"] strategic missiles and on new, far-reaching reductions in strategic arsenals.

These agreements will far exceed the amount of reductions agreed within the framework of the START Treaty, signed last summer. According to President Bush, these cuts will be carried out no later than the year 2003. Both sides have agreed to reduce their nuclear arsenals to between 3,000 and 3,500 nuclear warheads each.

Yeltsin on Details of Arms Cuts

LD1706075392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0737 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Washington June 17 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin made the following remarks at a news conference in the White House Rose Garden on Tuesday [16 June]: "Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to add a few words to what President Bush has just announced here. What we have achieved is an unparalleled and probably an unexpected thing for you and for the whole world. You are the first to hear about this historic decision which has been reached today after just five months of negotiations. We are, in fact, (?meeting) sharp dramatic reductions in the total number for the two sides of the number of the amount of nuclear warheads, from 21,000 to 6-7,000 for the United States of America and Russia.

Indeed, we have been able to cut over those five months of negotiations the total number of nuclear warheads to one-third, while it took 15 years under the START treaty to make some reductions. This is an expression of the fundamental change in the political and economic relations between the United States of America and Russia. It is also an expression and a proof of the personal trust and confidence that have been established between the presidents of these countries, President Bush of the United States of America and the president of Russia. And these things have been achieved without deception, without anybody wishing to gain unilateral advantages.

This is a result of the trust entertained by the president of the democratic Russia towards America and by the President of America towards the new Russia. This is the result of a carefully measured balance of security. We were not going in for numbers, for just one, two, three thousands of pieces. Rather, we have established a bracket for each country to elect the number, the figure that it will consider appropriate for its own defense and security.

As I have told you, the total number will go down from 21,000 to 6,000 for two sides. Under the first phase, the reductions for the two sides will be down to 3,800 to 4,250 bracket, including ICBMs, 1,250, and heavy missiles, 650, SLBMs, 2250. Under the second phase, we shall go down to, respectively, 3,000 and 3500, including total reduction and destruction of heavy missiles. Land-based MIRVs will be reduced as well. SLBMs will go down to 1,750. Each country will elect a figure that it will consider appropriate to ensure its defence and security.

Thus we are departing from the ominous parity where each country was exerting every effort to stay in line, which has led—Russia, for instance—having half of its population living below the poverty line. We cannot afford it, and therefore, we must have minimum security level to deal with any possible eventuality which might arise anywhere in the world and threaten our security. But we know one thing we shall not fight against each other.

This is a solemn undertaking that we are taking today, and it will be reflected as a matter of partnership and friendship in the charter that we are going to sign. Our proposal is to cut the process of destruction from the proposed. 13 years down to 9 years, so the things that I have been mentioning before will be materialized by the year 2000. [sentence as received] I am happy to be involved here in this historic occasion, and I will also hope that I will be as happy when this thing is materialized and President Bush and I will be celebrating together the implementatiom of that agreement in the year 2000. I thank you."

Then the presidents of the U.S. and Russia answered journalists' questions.

Yeltsin, Bush Field Questions

LD1706100792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0904 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Washington June 17 TASS—Following an announcement of far-reaching reductions in nuclear arms at a news conference in the White House Rose Garden on Tuesday [16 June], President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin answered journalists' questions.

Question: Mr. President, would you explain for people who might not understand why friends who trust each other and are not planning to attack would still leave 7,000 nuclear warheads?

Bush: What I'm saying is we've moved dramatically down from 13,000. This will be seen as an enormous move forward towards the relaxation of tension and towards the friendship that we feel for each other. The

elimination of these, the most destabilizing of weapons, is extraordinarily positive. And the fact that each country at this juncture in history retains some nuclear weapons speaks for itself.

Who knows what lies out there ahead? But certainly I agree with what President Yeltsin said, that there is no animosity, the Cold War days are over, and he came here in a spirit of forward movement on these arms control agreements, and that speaks for itself.

President Yeltsin: I would like to amplify on that. I would say that in response to your question, that the technical and financial resources that are required in order to destroy, dismantle and reduce the total number of warheads and missiles—from 21,000,to 6,000, 7,000 are enormous, and this is the only thing that conditions this figure.

President Bush: Let me—with your permission, Mr. President, I would like to take the last question, which relates to the POW-MIA discussions that we have had. President Yeltsin and I discussed this morning that issue that is of the highest priority for our administration and, I know, for every american, the fate of American POWs and MIAs from World War II, Korea, the Cold War period, and Vietnam. President Yeltsin informed not for the first time that Russia may have information about the fate of some of our servicemen from Vietnam, and he said the Russian Government is pursuing this information vigorously just as we speak.

And with us today are President Yeltsin's adviser, Dmitriy Volkogonov over here—Dmitriy—and our able former ambassador to the USSR, Ambassador Malcolm Toon. Now, they are the cochairs of the joint U.S.-Russian commission on POW-MIAs, and they've met during the last few months, along with the members of the United States Congress who are also part of this bipartisan U.S. delegation, to unearth information on American POWs and MIAs from 1945 on, and Russian POW and MIAs from the Afghan war.

President Yeltsin and I have instructed both of these gentlemen to begin immediately a joint U.S.-Russian pursuit of the latest information that was given to me today. I have asked Ambassador Toon to return immediately to Moscow to work on this issue.

And I want to assure all Americans, and particulatly those families of the American POWs and MIAs, that we will spare no effort in working with our Russian colleagues to investigate all information in the Russian archives concerning our servicemen. While we do not have any specific information to make public today, I pledge to keep the American people informed of developments on this issue and we—as we find out more about these latest leads.

And let me just point out that the forthcoming comments by President Yeltsin were just one more sign of this improved new relationship between Russia and the United States of America. For him to go back and dig into these records without fear of embarrassment is of enormous consequence to the people of the United States of America. And I salute him for this. He has told me that he will go the last mile to find whatever exists about our—a possibility of American POWs and MIAs and to clear this record once and for all. And in so many other fields, this demonstrates his leadership and the period of change that we are saluting and that I saluted here today on the south lawn of the White House.

So we're very grateful to you, Mr. President.

President Yeltsin: I will only add a couple of points, Mr. President. Our commission, headed and chaired by Dmitriy Volkogonov, has been meeting for several months now and it has already met with some success. And I can promise that the joint commission, which will be established following this press conference, will be working hard and will report to the American public all the information that will be found in the archives that we are going to open for it, including the archives in the KGB, in the Central Committee of the Communist Party regarding the fate of American POWs and MIAs.

Question: Do you agree it's possible that some of those Americans may still be alive?

President Bush: I would simply say that this—I have no evidence of that, but that the cooperation that is—has been extended and, again, is being extended by the president of Russia will guarantee to the American people that if anyone's alive, that person—those people would be found. And equally as important to the loved ones is the accounting for any possible MIA. And so we have no evidence of anyone being alive, but I would simply say again that this is the best way to get to the bottom of it, and this new approach by the president of Russia, to go into their archives and to try to find missing records, will be the assurance that I can give the American people that the truth will be reached finally.

Question: Is there a danger of raising false expectations, Mr. President?

President Bush: You've got to be careful of that, yeah.

In conclusion the presidents of Russia and the U.S. thanked the U.S. secretary of state, the Russian foreign minister, as well as the defence ministers of the two countries for the large amount of work done by them during the talks.

ITAR-TASS Reviews Arms Cuts

LD1706051192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0448 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin; all figures as received]

[Text] Washington June 17 TASS—U.S. President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, at their talks in Washington on Tuesday [16 June], reached a historic agreement on new deep cuts in the strategic

nuclear arsenals of the two sides. This was announced by the two leaders in their remarks at a brief news conference in the rose garden of the White House.

The aggregate number of warheads in the arsenals of Moscow and Washington will be reduced from 21,000 to 6,000-7,000.

The accords as presented by the two presidents look as follows:

—The United States and Russia reduce the number of warheads in their nuclear arsenals to 3,000-3,500 for each side within the period ending in the year 2003 or 2000, with each nation determining its own force structure within that range,

—Under the first phase, the reductions for the two sides will go down to 3,800-4,250 bracket, including ICBM's, 1250, and heavy missiles, 650, SLBM's, 2,250,

—Under the second phase there will be a 3,000-3,500 bracket for warheads for each side, including total reduction and destruction of heavy missiles. Land-based MIRVs will be reduced as well. SLBMs will go down to 1,750.

President Bush said the agreed upon reductions may be completed no later than the year 2003 and may be completed as early as the year 2000 "if the United States can assist Russia" in the required destruction of ballistic missile systems.

In the near future, the United States and Russia will record this accord in a brief treaty document that the two presidents will sign and submit for consideration and ratification to the legislatures of the two countries.

The Russian president, in an evaluation of the new nature of relationships between Moscow and Washington, defined them in his remarks in the White House as follows: "We shall not fight against each other. We are taking the road of partnership and friendship, and these relations will be sealed in a special charter."

A Washington charter is expected to be signed in the White House on Wednesday [17 June].

Additional Details of Talks

LD1706080692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0510 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents pavel Vanichkin and Andrey Shitov]

[Text] Washington, 17 Jun—What is happening behind the closed doors of the talks in Washington at the Russian-American summit? Journalists were able to get some idea of this at a briefing on 16 June by Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary to the president of the Russian Federation.

The main event of the day was undoubtedly the announcement of a new major agreement on nuclear disarmament. Kostikov said that he did not want to reiterate the facts already known from the official speeches, but he could report some additional details. Russia has already begun specific steps toward preparing to eliminate strategic missiles and warheads, he stated. These weapons will be destroyed in three places: Arzamas-16, Chelyabinsk-70, and Sverdlovsk-45. Moreover, as a gesture of goodwill, the SS-18 heavy missiles are already being removed from operational readiness.

As far as I can judge, Kostikov added, some journalists suspected that the presidents decided the armaments' problems behind the backs of their ministers of defense. However, the president of Russia confirmed that all the figures had been agreed upon by the ministers Cheney and Grachev.

In Kostikov's words, Yeltsin drew Bush's attention to the technical and financial problems connected with the destruction of nuclear weapons. The specific schedules for implementing the outlined disarmament plans, the briefing chairman noted in this connection, will depend on whether Russia can find the resources for this. This is a sphere in which the United States could help Russia, and the United States acknowledged that fact.

Problems not just of nuclear but also of other armaments were discussed in the White House, the Russian presidential press secretary reported. Bush, in particular, said that the United States is very near to signing a chemical weapons' convention. Yeltsin, in his turn, stated that Russia is ready to sign such a document by the fall this year.

As was to be expected, questions connected with the implementation of the Russian reforms occupied an appreciable place at the talks. Bush gave assurances that that he ardently supports this process. "There is complete understanding in the U.S. Government that Russia's success in the transition to the market is America's success," Kostikov stated.

In his words, during the conversations, Yeltsin in particular pointed to the historical uniqueness of the transition from totalitarianism to the free market, and asked Bush to bring moral pressure to bear upon the International Monetary Fund in order to ensure that it did not pose too harsh conditions on granting credits to Russia. The U.S. President "promised to use all his influence to affect the IMF, and to ensure that the leadership finds a correct, sensible, and compromise decision with regard to Russia."

Kostikov reported that Bush expressed anxiety over the recent reshuffles in the Russian Government, and raised the question in this connection of how far Yeltsin supports the government of Gaydar and of its stability. He heard in reply that the Yeltsin-Gaydar team remains strong, unified, and ready not only to continue, but also to intensify the course of the reforms.

The chairman of the briefing confirmed that Yegor Gaydar will not fly with the remaining delegation from the United States to Canada, saying that this is already known in Moscow.

In the presidents' conversations, the subject of space cooperation was touched upon. According to Kostikov, the possibility of launching joint satellites, of utilizing the "soyuz" missile to rescue American astronauts, the organization of a joint flight in 1993, using the "Mir" orbital station, and docking an American space ship of the "Space shuttle" system with this station was dealt with. The possibility of a joint flight to Mars in the distant future was mentioned.

As reported by Kostikov, a sensation was caused at the talks by an idea of Yeltsin, who informed Bush that after World War II the Germans submerged containers with an enormous quantity of chemical weapons in the Baltic Sea. The life of these containers is coming to an end, and they have already all gone rusty. If some kind of urgent measures are not taken, then in the next year or two one can expect an ecological catastrophe. "The essence of the matter is that Yeltsin has invited Bush to work out a joint program for raising and destroying these containers," Kostikov stated. "The impression has been created that the U.S. side perceived this information with interest, but naturally no specific decision can be made at the present time, since this requires the involvement of large naval forces and additional capital investments. Some kind of working group will evidently be set up."

The question was also discussed of U.S. POWs in Russia, Kostikov reported. It is a question of a group of more than 2,000 servicemen, among whom are very many different people. There are Americans within the group who found themselves in Russia after World War II, and during the war in Vietnam, Americans with Russian surnames who were taken for soldiers of Vlasov's army in their time. Several graves in which Americans have been buried have already been discovered. The quests are continuing.

"One felt that Mr. Bush was very excited and touched by the information about the POWs," the representative of the Russian president noted. "It is evident that he wanted to make some kind of gesture in return. He told Yeltsin that he would do everything possible to help Russia in recovering its POWs from Afghanistan. Bush stressed that America's possibilities in Afghanistan are not very great in this respect, but he intends to take advantage of them as far as is possible."

At the briefing it was stressed that the Russian leader attaches very great importance, not only to the essence of the problems discussed in Washington, but also to the atmosphere which reigned at the talks. "Yeltsin discovered with enormous satisfaction that a very high level of personal trust has arisen between him and Bush," said Kostikov. "Whereas the politicians had previously tried to outwit one another at talks, that is no longer the case. The new style of relations between the Russian and U.S. Administrations is characterized by openness, trust, and sincerity.

Yeltsin Addresses Dinner

LD1706025392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0150 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin]

[Text] Washington, 17 Jun—Russian President Boris Yeltsin addressed an official dinner given in his honor by U.S. President George Bush in the White House on 16 June. Yeltsin said:

"Mr. President, esteemed and charming Mrs. Bush, ladies and gentlemen: Today is an unusual day. I think this is the greatest day of my life. Mr. Bush, the President of a great power—the United States of America—and I today decided to cut strategic nuclear warheads by two-thirds by the year 2000. This is a truly historic event. From a total of 21,000 in both countries to 6,000-7,000. Not by 30 percent, not by 40 percent, not by 50 percent, but by two-thirds! I would like Mr. Bush—my friend 'George'—and I to live to see the year 2000 and to feel satisfied knowing that what we decided has come to pass.

"This year truly will go down in history. A new, unprecedented pace of reaching agreements has been set this year; accordingly, a new pace for cutting the arsenals of those dangerous weapons. Technical issues, rather than mutual fear and mistrust, are the deterring factor. I think the personal trust that the presidents of the United States and Russia—two great powers—have in each other is among today's successes.

"Russia and the United States are dynamically ridding themselves of the many stereotypes that formed the barriers that separated us for many years. Just how unnatural and alien they were to our peoples' interests is particularly obvious today. The United States and Russia have always had an influence not only on world history but also on each other. A total of 3 million Russian emigrants living in the United States have made and are making a worthy contribution to the American dream. Their labor and inspiration are an inalienable part of the U.S. people's efforts to provide facilities for their splendid, free country. These people did not just bring misfortune and loss; they gave the United States its knowledge, its culture, and its moral values. There are many here whose parents, grandparents, and great grandparents were Russian emigrants. Sergey Rakhmaninov, Igor Sikorskiy, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, David Sarnov, Vasiliy Leontev, Iosif Brodskiy, and many, many more of our compatriots abroad are world famous.

"The former regime did not manage to destroy the Russian people's good feelings toward the United States, despite the fact that there was an 'iron curtain' for many years. It has always remained an example of enterprise, of the ability to create fitting living conditions on vast expanses, and of vital optimism. Seeing the famous U.S.

smiles on the faces of many people today, including the street where we were, many times we caught ourselves thinking that only a free person can have such a smile. (applause)

"Our states found ways to draw closer and act jointly during the most critical moments, when serious threats hung over the world. Unfortunately, we did not manage to preserve our partnership for long; today, we are well aware why. Only the end of the 'cold war' removed the main obstacles to the path of our cooperation, ideological barriers, and the logic of confrontation. It only took us five months to reach this point today, together, two presidents and all those who helped us on this path. If you recall, our countries—the former Soviet Union and the United States—needed 15 years to cut, agree upon, and sign the treaty on a 30-percent reduction.

"The changing world is changing us, as well. The time will come when the changes in our perceptions of one another will continue in practice. Russia and I—the Russian president elected by all the people for the first time—consider it our duty to clarify the fate of every U.S. citizen who has suffered from the communist regime. (applause) Today, I gave U.S. President George Bush my word that no blank spots will remain on this issue. (applause)

"It seems to me that the words of Thomas Jefferson, one of the founding fathers of U.S. democracy, the words: 'Russia is the power among all others that is most sincere and friendly toward us', are being confirmed today. (applause)

"We are willing to join the United States and democratic states to act so that the values of freedom and democracy become a reality worldwide and to work out international mechanisms to strengthen the climate of trust in human fellowship. Democracy in action is invincible.

"Respected Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen: Allow me to toast the health and well-being of a respected President and his charming wife, Mrs. Bush; to the peace and prosperity of the peoples of our countries; to the new beginning; and to a great future for a friendly partnership between the great United States and the great Russia."

First Ladies Visit Washington Soup Kitchen

LD1606212292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2051 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin]

[Text] Washington June 17 TASS—While Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President George Bush were discussing arms cuts and economic cooperation, Barbara Bush and Naina Yeltsin visited a local soup kitchen for the homeless.

The kitchen makes about 2,600 sandwiches and 260 liters of vegetable soup monthly, feeding the hungry in a poor neighbourhood of Washington.

Naina Yeltsin said she was not shocked by the level of poverty in the U.S. capital.

"It can happen in any system, even when the state is rich. We understand your problems, but luckily, you have far fewer of them. We should also have a place like this in our country. But unlike in the United States we don't have products you have in the United States. But they will appear," Mrs. Yeltsin said.

Russian-American Business Council Meets

First Session Opens

LD1606205992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2043 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin]

[Text] Washington June 17 TASS—Even if Russian President Boris Yeltsin does not take home from the United States an aid package for Russia approved by Congress and an agreement with the International Monetary Fund, the full-scale Russian-American summit, which began in Washington on Tuesday [16 June], will produce a great many economic accords.

U.S. President George Bush said in the run-up to the summit it was in the U.S. interests not to let an opportunity of helping Russia turn itself into a democratic and free country slip away. He said the U.S. had already spent trillions of dollars on confrontation. Today it has an opportunity to provide aid to Russia to ensure democracy and freedom.

A whole string of events in the economic field, which are unprecedented for relations between the U.S. and Russia, has become a part of the embodiment of this desire.

For instance, the Russian-American Business Council met for its first session chaired by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Barbara Franklin and Russian Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Pyotr Aven today within the framework of the summit. The council groups 40 top managers of U.S. and Russian economic, trade and financial agencies and departments. The council members face the task of identifying the main hurdles to increasing American investments in the Russian economy and elaborating specific recommendations on how to clear them.

A meeting of some 300 managers of American industrial, trade and financial corporations with Russian officials and industrialists, which is without precedent in its scope, will begin in the White House on Wednesday [17 June]. The Bush Administration organised this meeting for the purpose of boosting American firms' interest in the participation in enacting economic reforms in the Russian Federation. Bush and Yeltsin will address the meeting on June 17.

A plethora of agreements between Russian and American companies to set up joint businesses to develop the fuel and energy sector, control air traffic, develop minerals and carry out military production conversion are expected to be signed in Washington during Yeltsin's visit.

As many as 361 joint enterprises with the participation of U.S. founders have already been registered in the Russian Federation by June 1, 1992. The aggregate volume of the Russian-American joint enterprises' statutory capital runs at some 17.4 billion roubles, of which foreign partners own 7.7 billion roubles. The largest number of such businesses operate in the sphere of consultative services—238, in the service sector—132, tourism—108, and only 26—in the public catering sector, 27—in the petro-chemical industry and 53—in machine-building.

Although none of the countries in the world has such a large number of joint enterprises with Russia, the majority of such ventures are not up and running as yet or operate at half capacity. American businessmen put the blame for this primarily on Russian bureaucracy.

The agreement to extend the most favoured nation trade status to Russia is expected to be sealed during the visit. As Moscow does not enjoy this status, tariffs levied on Russian imports exceed ten times tariffs imposed on commodities exported to the U.S. by other countries.

Russian representatives in Washington sound optimistic as regards an opportunity of concluding an agreement with the International Monetary Fund that will enable Russia to receive the first four billion dollars from the IMF's 24 billion dollar credit to Russia. They believe such an agreement can be signed in the next two weeks. The IMF considers that some backpedalling by Russia from the economic reform programme blocks the attainment of this accord. IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said the IMF could not support the programme that was not adequate, adding that in this case Russia would lose the momentum of movement and roll back into the quagmire of crisis.

However, eminent economist at Harvard University Jeffrey Sachs describes this tactics of delays on the part of the IMF as inadmissible and only exacerbating the economic situation in Russia, which is fraught with social upheavals. He emphasised that each week puts economic reforms at still greater risk.

Goals of Commission Noted

LD1706022792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0045 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shitov]

[Text] Washington, 17 Jun—The common wish of Russia and the United States to develop mutually beneficial commercial and economic cooperation was confirmed on the first day of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's official U.S. visit. A ceremony to mark the opening of a new business information service, called upon to answer any questions U.S. companies interested in opening up the markets of Russia and of other former Soviet Republics may have, took place in the U.S. Department of Commerce on 16 June. U.S. Secretary of Commerce Barbara Franklin and Petr Aven, Russian foreign economic relations minister, participated in the ceremony.

B. Franklin addressed the gathering, saying: "The United States wants to be Russia's number one trade partner and investor. I want to stress quite clearly that it is to the benefit of the United States to lend assistance to Russia, creating new jobs here at home and opening up new markets abroad." "We are optimistic about Russia," the U.S. secretary said, "cautious and realistic but, nevertheless, optimistic."

P. Aven noted that the Russian Government wants to attract foreign investment in the interests of national revival. He acknowledged that Russia's political uncertainty serves as a strong restraining factor in this process. He also expressed confidence that Russia may "very soon" reach an agreement with the IMF which will open a path for it to receive aid to the tune of $24 billion. "I hope they will be sympathetic to our cause," P. Aven said of IMF representatives.

The leaders of the Russian and U.S. commerce departments confirmed that bilateral agreements on investment and taxation will be signed during this summit. They said that the final obstacles to preparing these documents have already been removed.

Clearly, creating sound legal foundations for developing commercial and economic cooperation will further U.S. companies' mass arrival onto the Russian market. A series of new contracts signed on 16 June confirmed this. B. Franklin expressed confidence that this is only the beginning.

The total value of the contracts at issue is valued at $213 million. York International will build an enterprise manufacturing milk-cooling systems in Russia, and Rotek Industries will build a factory manufacturing prefabricated houses.

Several other agreements aim to develop Russia's oil industry. Lufkin Industries, of Texas, has undertaken to deliver a large consignment of equipment for oil fields, and GHK, of Oklahoma, has undertaken to guarantee the renewal of the extraction of "black gold" at 110 wells in Samara Oblast. Incidentally, this oblast signed an agreement with Oklahoma on information exchanges in the oil industry. Oklahoma Governor David Walters said that oil workers from his state regard Russia as a place of practically limitless possibilities.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

LD1606222992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2115 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash]

[Excerpts] Washington, 17 Jun (TASS)—On the first day of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's official state visit to the United States, the business people of both countries signed an agreement on cooperation. On behalf of the private sectors of both countries, this, the first such accord, was sealed by the signatures of President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Richard Lesher and President of the Russian Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Stanislav Smirnov. [passage omitted]

S. Smirnov, for his part, noted that using its own resources and its ramified network of branches, the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Russia will help the U.S. business world which is already operating on or intending to enter the Russian market. "The principles enshrined in the agreement create an excellent basis for the growth of Russian-American business," the Russian representative said in conclusion.

Further Details on Agreement

LD1706080992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0752 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Washington June 17 TASS—On the first day of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's official state visit to the U.S., business people from the two countries signed an agreement on mutual cooperation.

On instructions from the two countries' private sectors, the first accord of its kind was sealed by the signatures of Richard Lesher, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Stanislav Smirnov, president of the Russian Federation's Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The agreement signed signifies the culminating point in relations between representatives of the business communities of the two countries, Lesher told ITAR-TASS. He said the agreement envisages joint efforts in such key areas as the strengthening of trade and economic contacts between U.S. and Russian businessmen, the gathering and dissemination of information on business resources and on problems that arise before the U.S. and Russian business communities, the identification and removal of obstacles to business cooperation between the two countries.

Lesher expressed hope that the business communities and governments in the two countries will be able to work effectively to ensure successful growth of commercial and economic cooperation between the United States and Russia. He urged the U.S. Congress to endorse the economic freedom promotion bill suggested by President Bush, pointing out that this would contribute to the provision of U.S. technical aid and assistance in the field of management to the emerging business world of Russia.

The Russian Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, by using its own resources and a ramified network of its branches, will give assitance to U.S. businessmen who already operate or intend to enter the Russian market, Smirnov told ITAR-TASS.

"The principles inherent in the agreement furnish an excellent basis for the development of Russian-U.S. business," he said.

Ministry Denies Giving Arms to Azerbaijan

LD1606144692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1432 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow June 16 TASS—The Russian Defence Ministry denied on Tuesday [16 June] that the hardware of the 23d Infantry Division stationed in Azerbaijan was handed over to Azeri forces fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh. "The hardware was not transferred, no cases of seizing armaments have been registered of late and the personnel is stationed in places of permanent location", the ministry said in a statement received by TASS on Tuesday [16 June].

The Armenian ambassador in Moscow said on Tuesday armaments of two Russian divisions are used by Azeri forces in their offensive in Karabakh.

The ministry also denied reports that Russian military aviation is being used in the offensive. "All military aircraft of the units under Russian jurisdiction were withdrawn from Azerbaijan on June 9-10. At present the airfield of a reconnaissance aviation wing is being blocked by the Azerbaijani side near the village of Dallyar. The planes are to be withdrawn to Russia".

However, the ministry did not exclude a possibility that military hardware which had been earlier handed over to Azerbaijan is being used in Nagorno-Karabakh. Ex-Soviet officers might be commanding Azerbaijani armed units there. However, this does not give grounds for accusing the Russian military deployed in Azerbaijan. They are strictly neutral and do not take part in military activities, the ministry said.

Possible Greek Intervention in Yugoslavia Viewed

NC1706073792 Moscow Radio Moscow in Greek to Greece 1900 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Commentary by Spartak Alekseyev]

[Text] Developments in Yugoslavia pose Greece new and difficult problems concerning the direction of Greek foreign policy priorities on the Balkans. Big economic and political difficulties, linked to the UN sanctions

against Serbia and Montenegro, have also been added to the acute problem of the diplomatic recognition of the Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. Adding to the issue is the more serious threat of the internal Yugoslav armed conflict expanding to the south.

Albanian President Dr. Sali Berisha, who is visiting the United States, pointed out the imperative need to stop the conflict in Kosovo from expanding, because Macedonia and Albania could be dragged into it, or because they could even become the cause of a Balkan war.

The EC warned on 15 June that Kosovo could wind up in the Yugoslav powder keg, which threatens to explode, and he called on all sides, including Serbia and Albania, to show restraint to avoid such a thing.

The Greek Government has also pointed out the possibility of such a dangerous turn of events and a conference of Greek political party leaders discussed the issue as well. Prime Minister Mitsotakis gave an assurance that his government would not allow the country to become involved in armed conflict in Yugoslavia and in the Balkans in general. However, such a danger remains.

Some of the detached Yugoslav republics can reportedly ask for foreign military assistance and the possibility of such intervention was discussed at NATO. TO VIMA [Athens weekly TO VIMA TIS KIRIAKIS] published a special article on this issue, stressing, among other things, that NATO is studying some plans which, in the event of war, give Greece the role of supply the bases for the armed peace forces which would be dispatched to Serbia and Montenegro. According to TO VIMA, three basic military installations in (Lipoporion), [name indistinct], and Khrisoupolis will be used for this purpose. The plans also took into consideration a possible conflagration in Kosovo as well as the possibility of Bulgaria, Albania, and Turkey intervening in the crisis. TO VIMA adds that although such plans exist, it does not mean they will necessarily be implemented.

After the EC conference in Luxembourg, Prime Minister Mitsotakis also announced that the EC stated it would no longer discuss armed intervention in Yugoslavia, something Greece first demanded it should not discuss.

We would like to hope that no foreign armed intervention will take place and, most importantly, that the situation does not deteriorate to the extent that intervention becomes necessary. These hopes should not be at the expense of vigilance, because the great danger of war remains in the Balkans. The Balkan countries, Europe, Russia, the United States, and the United Nations must try hard to remove such a threat to settle the crisis in the former Yugoslavia peacefully. Greece can certainly play a serious role in these efforts, which the country's political party leaders conference also noted.

Arms Sales to Libya, 'Policy of Double Standard'

PM1606132592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Vladimir Skosyrev report: "Missiles for Colonel al-Qadhdhafi"]

[Text] Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi likes to surprise both his own subjects and the West. The publication this week in the official newspaper AL-JAMAHIRIYAH of an article criticizing none other than al-Qadhdhafi himself, is most likely the latest such surprise.

Seeing that nothing of the sort has happened before in Al-Qadhdhafi's 23 years of rule, diplomats in Tripoli have run into a real conundrum. What does the publication mean? A weakening of the leader's position, or simply a maneuver designed to justify a forthcoming retreat on his part from a bellicose pan-Arab policy?

While there is no answer on this score as yet, we can offer the reader at least a partial solution to another mystery—the mystery of Soviet participation in creating the Libyan war machine. The editorial office has in its possession materials from special CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers files on this issue. The materials take up about 15 typewritten pages and for this reason alone cannot be reproduced in the newspaper. We will have to confine ourselves to a paraphrase and commentary.

The main document is a memorandum to the CPSU Central Committee, dated 14 January 1988 and signed by Zaykov, Shevardnadze, Yazov, Maslyukov, and Katushev. There is also a draft of a corresponding order from Ryzhkov. These documents, citing instructions from Gorbachev, propose granting aid to Libya. The aid process was broken into two phases. Moscow undertook to assist in the repair of military equipment and to supply spare parts in 1988-89, and promised thereafter to send the colonel new types of weapons.

The materials do not indicate precisely what kind of weapons, but the guns and combat vehicles that were shipped earlier were no toys. They include "Luna-M" and R-17 missile complexes, aircraft, and submarines.

Of course, the actual fact of the deliveries has long been no secret. Nor is it any secret that, until recently—more specifically, until the introduction by the UN Security Council of economic sanctions against Libya in April—hundreds of our military specialists worked in that country. When the sanctions came into force they had to return home, abandoning work that was quite well paid (according to our feeble Soviet concepts, anyway).

However, until now, the public at large has remained ignorant of the terms on which we sent guns to Al-Qadhdhafi. Perhaps it was all for free? Especially since the word used several times in the above-mentioned memorandum to the Central Committee is "aid." This expression however, should not be taken seriously. Here

we are faced—exactly as in Orwell's novel "1984"—with typically communist "newspeak", a jargon which distorts a word's original sense. In fact, it is a matter not of aid, but of commerce—extremely profitable commerce for the Soviet side.

The terms for repair and delivery are worth noting: These services are granted on credit, in accordance with worldwide practice. At the same time, repayment was envisaged in hard currency or oil.

Bearing in mind our state's constant burning need since 'Great October' for freely convertible currency, the loyal Leninists' deal with Al-Qadhdhafi, who apart from anything else is the author of the "Third World theory," was extremely opportune for the Soviet Union. At least it seemed to Moscow at the time that it might well justify itself on the economic level.

However, the deal happened at the very beginning of 1988. Let us recall what sort of time this was: the honeymoon in relations with Reagan and Bush. The heyday of new political thinking and talk of common human values. Consequently the highest ruling echelons of the USSR should, in theory, have taken the moral side of the question into account also. They should have pondered whether it was worth arming to the teeth, a leader who fiercely crushes dissidence at home and who supports terrorism and has expansionist tendencies abroad.

In this context, the colonel's record was eloquent enough. Libyan "revolutionary committees" were hunting down dissidents who had fled abroad, and, if successful, eliminating them. An explosion in a West Berlin discotheque visited by U.S. soldiers was also, in all probability, the work of the Libyan special services. Finally, Tripoli had become embroiled in the protracted civil war in Chad, hoping to turn it into a vassal state.

You would think all this would have prompted Moscow to review its relations with such a dubious partner. However, whatever M. Gorbachev asserted publicly, Staraya Square [CPSU headquarters] continued to be guided by the old motto "My enemy's (i.e. the United States') enemy is my ally. After all, Al-Qadhdhafi, whatever his personal ambitions, had given good assistance to Soviet military strategy in the Mediterranean from the early seventies. He had repeatedly made the U.S. generals responsible for the security of NATO's southern flank nervous.

In other words, though feeding the Jamahiriyah [Libya] with military deliveries was indefensible from the standpoint of the morality in international affairs proclaimed by Moscow, it was fully in line with the postulates of the "cold war." Therefore the Central Committee decided that it was necessary to grant "aid."

However, is it fair to accuse the creators of Soviet foreign policy of the perestroyka era of neglecting moral standards when Washington was not irreproachable in this sphere either? A natural question, I think. After all, the "proxy war" which the USSR and the United States were waging in the Third World had not yet finished. The United States also was not particularly scrupulous in supporting, for example, J. Savimbi's group, which resorted to terror in Angola, or Saddam Husayn's regime in Iraq.

Well, all this is true. The Bush administration really found itself in an awkward situation when it was revealed recently that its favorable attitude to S. Husayn had to some degree prompted the dictator to attack Kuwait. However, the Americans are not having to pay as high a price for their mistakes as Russia did for its. After all, now that the UN Security Council has pinned al-Qadhdhafi to the wall with its sanctions, all the projects in our military-technical cooperation with Libya lie in ruins.

Tripoli was already delaying repayment of its debts—the documents in Staraya Square are unambiguous testimonies on this score. Now that Moscow has subscribed to the United Nations' anti-Libyan sanctions, the hope of receiving full repayment of military debts running to more than $3 billion is altogether ephemeral.

The conclusion is obvious: A policy of double standards, resting on a shaky moral basis, cannot be a successful policy.

Diplomat on Romanian-Moldovan Unification

AU1606113792 Bucharest REALITATEA ROMANEASCA in Romanian 4 Jun 92 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Viktor Bykov, Russian consul in Iasi, by Cristian Dutescu; place and date not give: "Unification Is a Domestic Affair of the Romanians"]

[Text] [Dutescu] Consul, the main problem I would like us to discuss is the war in the Dniester region.

[Bykov] I do not believe that there is a war in that area.

[Dutescu] Then let us call it a conflict.

[Bykov] That's better. I think that the tense situation in Moldova is a domestic affair of that country. In my view, existing differences can be solved peacefully by the two belligerent sides involved in this conflict.

[Dutescu] What is Russia's opinion about this war?

[Bykov] Russia's opinion is no different. This is not a war. Our president, Boris Yeltsin, has said that he does not think that this conflict will degenerate, and he thinks that nonviolent ways and means will be sought to solve this conflict. I think that you are already familiar with Russia's official position on this subject. I can only agree with the president's statement. As in the case of the Crimea, he proposed the organization of weekly meetings with the participation of all sides concerned: the representatives of Moldova and Russia, as well as those of Ukraine and Romania.

[Dutescu] How do you view the unification of the Republic of Moldova with Romania?

[Bykov] This is also a domestic affair; there is a famous expression that runs like this: Each one with his own people.

[Dutescu] We know that this conflict in the Dniester region also began because of possible unification between Moldova and Romania.

[Bykov] Are you actually asking me what the reasons for this war are?

[Dutescu] Yes.

[Bykov] Each side may have its reasons in this conflict. The position of the Moldovan Government is known; it struggles for the country's unity. However, on the other hand, one has to bear in mind and clearly understand the things that push the others into this struggle. Under current circumstances, no one can tell any people what its guideline should be, meaning neither can Moldova. The people alone will decide on their future.

[Dutescu] However, when we think of the 14th Army intervention in this conflict....

[Bykov] The information about the 14th Army's intervention is completely contradictory! Statements always differ. They must always be judged in the same way, otherwise they cannot be judged correctly. They contain—more or less intentionally—false information, maybe as a means of misleading people.

[Dutescu] The 14th Army is under Russian jurisdiction....

[Bykov] That is true. However, such armies are deployed in all the republics of the former USSR, in the Baltic countries, and in Moldova.

[Dutescu] Are those armies not occupation Armies?

[Bykov] No, certainly not. Of course not. Those Armies were in the same positions during the time of the Soviet Union. I think that dislocating thousands of people is not an easy affair. These military people have families and children. That means tens of thousands of people. Certainly, preparations for their repatriation have to begin.

[Dutescu] There was talk that this repatriation may be concluded by 1994.

[Bykov] Yes, indeed. Let us not forget that there are armies in Germany, the Baltic countries, and in Moldova. What is needed is time. Conditions have to be prepared for the return of these troops. Houses have to be built for the officers. These are things that we cannot yet guarantee. Certainly, Moldova will not be able to host the 14th Army much longer and our countries have to settle their relations in this respect. However, pressure is of no use; a consensus has to be reached by bearing in mind that the general situation complicates a solution to this problem. We need time. I understand that steps are being taken for a possibly rapid evacuation of the 14th Army and if no objective factors are going to interfere, then this will be carried out immediately.

[Dutescu] What do you think of the new conflict in the Crimea?

[Bykov] In this case, too, one cannot speak of a conflict.

[Dutescu] Anyhow, it is a political conflict.

[Bykov] To a certain extent. One may call it a difference of opinion between the Russian and Ukrainian Governments. We have no territorial claims whatsoever toward Ukraine. All statements or attempts pursuing a division or modification of borders are a very dangerous thing. Our parliament has adopted a resolution invalidating a 1954 document. It was found that this document was at variance with Russia's Constitution and thus it was declared unconstitutional. It affirmed the impossibility of modifying and restructuring the borders that existed in the USSR after the war. Certainly, a lot of changes occurred in our countries in the past 50 years; but to pose the problem of territorial claims would be a mistake. One has to bear in mind the current situation. Of course, our efforts will be channeled in another direction: This situation will be settled by peaceful means, through dialogue between the governments and parliaments of our countries. If relations between our countries are friendly ones, it does not matter to which country Crimea belongs. Actually, I have the impression that there is no border between Russia and Ukraine. I do not think that there will be any territorial issues in the future. They will die down pretty soon.

[Dutescu] Do you think that Romania and Russia will maintain relations of friendship?

[Bykov] I am convinced of it. Why not?

[Dutescu] Because there is this problem of Bessarabia, an area with quite a large number of people of Russian origin.

[Bykov] I do not know their exact number. They do not constitute a pressing problem that has to be solved immediately. All the problems in Moldovan can be solved through dialogue. We have the negative example of Yugoslavia, although I am convinced that such a situation will not be reached.

[Dutescu] Therefore, do you visualize a possible and immediate unification between Bessarabia and Romania?

[Bykov] In principle, why shouldn't I visualize it? It is a move which, in my view, is possible because one and the same nation is living in both countries. It is possible. Today, tomorrow, in a few years....

Moldovan Troops Refuse To Take Oath

LD1606175492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0858 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Fomin]

[Text] Chita June 16 ITAR-TASS—More than fifty borderguards who refuse to take the military oath of allegiance to the Republic of Moldova have been dispatched from the Chisinau force to Eastern Siberia.

According to the Chita regional newspaper ZABAIKALSKY RABOCHIY, they said upon arrival here that they did not want to serve Romanians but wanted to serve Russia because most of them were ethnic Russians born in the Russian Rostov region.

The commandment of the border guards satisfied their request. The descendants of the Don Cossacks will continue their service with the borderguards in the Baykal region.

Lithuanian Delegate Denies Yeltsin Oil Deal

PM1606153792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jun 92 First Edition p 7

[ITAR-TASS report under the general heading "Lithuania: Referendum Will Complicate Situation"]

[Text] Ceslovas Stankevicius, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council and leader of the state delegation at the talks with the Russian Federation, has denied the reports carried in some organs of the mass media that "Vytautas Landsbergis abandoned the peremptory demands for the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuanian territory during the meeting in Moscow, receiving from Boris Yeltsin—in exchange—a promise to supply oil, as the republic is currently experiencing a fuel crisis. Landsbergis is seeking thereby, in the opinion of commentators, to strengthen his position on the eve of the new parliamentary elections."

According to Stankevicius, "this comment is pure invention."

Federation Affairs

President Yeltsin Signs Decree on Bankruptcy

OW1606183892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1823 GMT 16 Jun 92

[From "INTERFAX Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree on bankruptcy for insolvent state enterprises which determines the procedure for their liquidation or restructuring.

An enterprise may be declared bankrupt when it cannot fulfill its obligations to creditors or according to budget within three months, or when an enterprise has long term loans out worth more than twice as much as the value of the enterprise's property. The decision to declare an enterprise bankrupt is made either by the State committee or local committees for managing Russian state property. After making such a decision, management of the enterprise is taken over by the committee for managing property. The enterprise has the right to dispute the declaration of bankruptcy in a court of law.

Within a month after bankruptcy is declared a special commission made up of representatives from the committee for managing property and the owners should approve a restructuring program or declare that the enterprise should be liquidated. The restructuring program includes holding an auction for the temporary management (from 6 to 18 months) of the enterprise by any legal entity or individual, and when there are no participants at an auction, the commission will introduce direct administrative management of the enterprise by the committee for managing property.

Auction rules for the temporary management of an enterprise include maintaining at least 70% of jobs at the enterprise, guaranteeing the rights and interests of fired workers, taking responsibility for paying off the enterprise's debts and guaranteeing that work at the enterprise is environment-friendly while production is reorganized. There may be no other rules at auctions. Restructuring an enterprise means that at least 80% of the means received either as a deposit or from the sale of goods or fixed capital be used towards financing the renovation of the enterprise and paying off long standing debts.

Any foreign or Russian legal entity or individual may participate in an auction. To participate, one must make a financial deposit of at least 10% of the balance value of the enterprise. The right to manage an enterprise goes to the highest bidder. The decree stipulates that the state does not have any responsibility for an enterprise's debts once a businessman has taken over the enterprise.

The businessman or workers' collective which restructured the bankrupt enterprise becomes the owner of the enterprise. The owner's share in the enterprise's property is that amount invested during restructuring, the profit and the value of the deposit at auction. If restructuring fails and the decision is made to liquidate an enterprise, the deposit will not be returned.

The decision to actully liquidate an enterprise will be made by the state or local committees for managing Russian property. After deciding to liquidate, an auction of the sale of its property or of the enterprise itself is held. The decree allows for the introduction of additional terms for such auctions, such as insisting that buyers continue producing the main product or that not more than 30% of workers may be fired.

All auction participants should deposit 50% of the starting price, winners are those who bid the highest.

The decree on bankruptcy goes into force from the moment of its publication in Russia's official press and will be in effect until the Russian Federation Law "on bankruptcy" is passed.

INTERFAX has the complete text of the decree.

Yeltsin Decree on Destruction of Chemical Weapons

OW1606142792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has authorized his presidential Committee for conventions on chemical and biological weapons together with the pertinent ministries and departments to submit within two months proposals to the government on stage-by-stage creation of facilities for destroying chemical weapons. Those proposals should include the technical, material, financial aspects of the work and the necessary personnel.

According to his decree "On Priority Measures for Implementing Russia's Obligations in Destroying Chemical Weapons Stockpiles" offers some benefits and perks to people working in this field in their wages, pensions, social and medical services.

The decree provides for setting up diagnostic centers for regular examination of such personnel and those resident within a 15km zone round the facilities, also an information and monitoring system in that zone.

'Text' of Yeltsin Decree on Border Troops

PM1606152792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jun 92 First Edition p 5

[Text of 12 June No. 620 "Decree of the Russian Federation President on the Formation of the Russian Federation Border Troops"]

[Text] For the purpose of creating a unified system of security and protection for the state border and maritime economic zone of the Russian Federation I resolve:

1. To form the Russian Federation Border Troops as part of the Russian Federation Security Ministry from the personnel of the Committee for the Protection of the State Border and the troops under its command.

To establish that the Russian Federation Border Troops commander is at the same time a Russian Federation deputy security minister. To authorize the Russian Federation Security Ministry to have the aforementioned position in addition to the number of deputy ministerial positions already confirmed.

2. To subordinate to the Russian Federation Security Ministry border troops on the territory of the Russian Federation and those taken under its jurisdiction plus educational institutions, enterprises, establishments, and organizations subordinate to the Committee for the Protection of the State Border with their existing structure, staff numbers, buildings, facilities, and stocks of weapons, equipment, and other material resources.

3. The Russian Federation Border Troops are to be guided in their activity by international treaties, agreements on border questions among CIS states, the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the laws of the Russian Federation, and the legal acts of the former USSR insofar as they are not at variance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

4. The financing of and material and technical backup for the activity of the Border Troops and the social, consumer, and pension provision made for servicemen and members of their families are to be met out of Russian Federation budget allocations assigned to those ends and transferred to the Russian Federation Security Ministry.

5. In forming the Russian Federation Border Troops to retain for servicemen, workers, and employees of the Russian Federation Border Troops the previously established benefits and the procedure and norms for the disbursement of payments, wages, and material and pension provision. To retain for servicemen, if appointed to positions with lower rates of pay, the rates that were received prior to such an appointment for the whole period of work in those positions until entitlement to receive higher rates of pay arises. In fixing the pension for the aforementioned servicemen it is to be calculated from the retained rates of pay.

6. The Government of the Russian Federation is:

to determine the procedure for financing and providing material, technical, and medical backup for the staff of the interstate Committee for the Protection of Borders for the purpose of creating appropriate conditions for its functioning. To resolve the question of accommodating the aforementioned committee in Moscow in premises intended for government administrative agencies;

to prepare proposals on the shared participation of the Russian Federation in financing the interstate Committee for the Protection of Borders and the Commonwealth Border Troops for examination at a CIS heads of state session.

7. In connection with the promulgation of this decree, the Russian Federation Security Ministry is to prepare within 10 days proposals on making amendments and additions to Decree No. 42 of the President of the Russian Federation "On the Formation of the Russian Federation Security Ministry," dated 24 January 1992, and the Temporary Statute on the Russian Federation Security Ministry approved by the decree.

8. The decree enters into force from the moment it is signed.

[signed] Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation
The Kremlin, Moscow, 12 June, 1992

Yeltsin Meets With Tatar President Shaymiyev

LD1106210592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 11 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The president of Tatarstan has spent the ['Id al-Adha] holiday in Moscow. Mintimer Shaymiyev has met Boris Yeltsin. It was decided to continue talks on concluding a treaty between Tatarstan and Russia.

Commander of Far East Border District Removed

LD1106221492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1654 GMT 11 Jun 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Khabarovsk—Lieutenant General Vladimir Butenko, commander of the Far Eastern Frontier District, was removed from his post on June 8. Major General Vitaliy Kostenko, the new commander of the Frontier District, arrived in Khabarovsk on June 10. Previously he was chief of staff of the Baltic Frontier District. Butenko was appointed head of the Kaliningrad Task Force. This post may be held by an officer with the rank of major general, which is lower than Butenko's military rank, a source close to the staff of the Far Eastern Frontier District told PF [POSTFACTUM]. According to various versions, Butenko could be removed from his post for cases of the violation of the Russian-Chinese border in the Far East which have become more frequent of late, the deterioration of combat preparedness of the Frontier District, as well as for his repeated voyages abroad.

Replacement of Northwestern Forces Head Noted

LD1306085792 Riga Radio Riga International in Latvian 0430 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] As Colonel General Valeriy Mironov, supreme commander of the Northwestern Group of Forces, is being appointed deputy defense minister of the Russian Federation, he has been released from his duties as supreme commander of the Northwestern Group of Forces and as Russia's authorized representative on questions regarding the withdrawal of the Army from the Baltic states.

This information was received from the press center of the Northwestern Group of Forces. According to unofficial information, several staff officers in the Forces have already expressed their lack of confidence in Valeriy Mironov; these officers had previously supported the candidacy of the present deputy supreme commander, (?Milichenko), for the post of supreme commander. An official familiarization with the candidate proposed by the Russian Defense Ministry took place at the headquarters of the Northwestern Group of Forces on 11 June.

Turkestan Military District To Be Abolished

LD1406184992 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] Turkestan Red Banner Military District is ceasing to exist. INTERFAX reports that the official abolition will take place on 30 June.

District Commander Colonel General Kondratyev, who has already been appointed deputy Russian defense minister by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, is expected to issue an instruction on this.

Grachev Greets Servicemen on Independence Day

PM1206133992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Jun 92 p 1

[Congratulations message from Russian Federation Defense Minister Army General P. Grachev on Independence Day]

[Text] Russian Federation Defense Minister Army General P. Grachev has congratulated the troops of the Army and Navy on the occasion of a notable event—Russian Federation Independence Day.

Soldiers and sailors, sergeants and petty officers, ensigns and warrant officers, officers, generals, and admirals!

Armed Forces veterans!

On 12 June the peoples of the Russian Federation celebrate their national holiday—Independence Day—which symbolizes the revival of Russian statehood.

The holiday falls at a difficult time for the Fatherland. Economic decline, inflation, a sharp fall in the living standards of broad strata of the population, political and social instability—all this is a heavy burden on Russians' shoulders.

As ever, during testing times, the troops of the Russian Army and Navy share with their people all the difficulties of the thorough reform of society. In the difficult situation they are steadfastly enduring the hardships that have befallen them, are carrying out their military duty with dignity and honor, and are remaining composed and organized. While consistently tackling the tasks of forming the Russian Armed Forces, the troops of the Army and Navy are doing all they can to maintain combat readiness at the requisite level and to safeguard the country's peaceful and democratic development and its security, freedom, and independence.

I greet and congratulate the troops of the Army and Navy and Armed Forces veterans on Independence Day! May this holiday be a vehicle for the unity of the Army and the people and the cohesion of all true Russian patriots in the defense of the homeland and concern for its future!

I wish you success in resolving combat training tasks and in strengthening military discipline, good health, personal happiness, courage, and optimism.

Russian Federation Defense Minister Army General P. Grachev.

New Pay Scales for Russian Servicemen Cited

PM1206091792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jun 92 p 2

[Report by Vasiliy Izgarshev: "New Appointments and New Pay Scales for Servicemen]

[Excerpt] At the conference of leading Army and Navy personnel held in Moscow, the Russian Armed Forces summed up the results of the first half-year of the personnel's military training. Despite all the complexity of the situation in the country and the Army, the training program was by and large carried out in the majority of units and large units. President Boris Yeltsin addressed the conference. He called the present time the most complex period in the Army's life. Russia's position is clear and precise with respect to the withdrawal of the troops from the Baltic countries. We will withdraw the troops, but without haste, and not if we have to put them in an open field; we reject the policy of ultimatums and pressure. If the other side participates in the provision of facilities for our units, then naturally the withdrawal may be speeded up. The president stated that we will build the Russian border and strengthen the customs service. We will start with the border with the Baltic countries and with Azerbaijan. The border troops will once again be part of the Ministry of Security system.

The president reported that he had signed a decree on increasing the servicemen's monetary allowance by 80 percent. The pay scale based on military rank has also been increased. A junior sergeant and a petty officer second class will receive 500 rubles [R] a month. A sergeant will receive R600, a senior sergeant R700, and a ranking NCO R800. Warrant officers and ensigns will get R1,000. Senior warrant officers and ensigns will get R1,100. A junior lieutenant will henceforth be paid R1,500 a month. The pay scale goes up by R200 for every subsequent rank up and including colonel. In short, B. Yeltsin said, a major general will now receive as much as a minister in the Russian Government, and a colonel general twice as much as the Russian president. [passage omitted]

Ostankino Protest Continues; Conditions Set

LD1606125292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] People in the tent camp near the television center are not leaving. As we know, the question of giving regular television air time to pro-communist forces is being studied. Yegor Yakovlev has said that it would take no less than a month.

However, incited by their leader, Moscow Soviet deputy Anpilov, supporters of the Trudovaya Moskva intend to carry on picketing until 22 June, the 47th anniversary of the Great Patriotic War. Then there will be another rally with the participation of war veterans. The tent camp is still covered in anti-Semitic slogans, and insults are still being hurled at employees of the television center.

An end to the pickets and the return to normal conditions for the functioning of the television center were put forward by Yegor Yakovlev as unconditional prerequisites in settling the picketers' demands. We will keep you informed about any further developments in the situation around the Ostankino television center.

Poltoranin Comments

OW1606171492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Remove the picketers from the "Ostankino" television and radio station is one of the main, though not the only, condition put by the government before it will begin negotiations with the opposition, Russian Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Press and Information Mikhail Poltoranin said in an interview with "IF" [INTERFAX]. He said that at the meeting with picket leaders he proposed that an all-Russian congress or movement of opposition forces be created, whose working organ would develop a political platform, and put forth the demands that their position be published by the mass media. The Vice Prime Minister said that only in this manner can a serious dialogue between the opposition and the government structures move forward.

'Democratic Russia' Issues Statement

LD1706091792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] According to Ilya Zaslavskiy, cochairman of the Democratic Russia movement, the coordinating council of the Moscow branch of Democratic Russia has demanded that the city leadership end the illegal actions by organizers of and participants in the action outside the Ostankino television center. If the authorities are unable to fulfill their duties with the minimum of delay in establishing order and the safety of citizens and in ensuring the normal work of the Ostankino television and radio company, the Moscow branch of Democratic Russia is prepared to take the workers of the television center under its own protection. The coordinating council's statement notes that it will no longer tolerate the authorities' delay in making a decision to end the activity of extremist procommunist and profascist associations which are systematically organizing illegal actions and calling for national and social dissent, civil war, and the overthrow of constitutional order.

Tent Camp Dismantled

OW1706111192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Wednesday [17 June] night Moscow militia conducted an operation on dismantling the tent camp which was created by demonstrators at the "Ostankino" TV center, the Chief of the Main Internal Department Arkadiy Murashev said at a briefing. He said that there were "no victims neither bloodshed during this operation". According to Murashev, the militia men dismantled 18 tents, and the other were taken off by the demonstrators themselves. The employees of the Main Internal Department say that according to their assessment about one thousand people took part in liquidation of this tent camp and subsequently guarding measures "what to a certain degree aggravated the situation in the city as many employees of the law enforcement bodies were to be drawn from other important spheres of work".

Tuesday Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov warned that if the tent camp built without any permission is not liquidated on June 16 then the militia will take part in its dismantlement. Meanwhile the headquarters of the "Working Russia" movement told "IF" [INTERFAX] that the Council of the opposition forces passed a decision to liquidate the tent camp near TV center. The opposition forces decided to destroy the camp "so as not to endanger the demonstrators due to possible repressions on the part of militia", the headquarters of the movement which is one of the organizers of picketing reported.

It will continue till June 22 when "Working Russia" plans to conduct a widescale meeting at the TV center.

On June 1 in the morning the demonstrators occupied their positions near the entrance to the TV center demanding an hour every day broadcasting.

Deputies at Rally Linked With 'Provocateurs'

LD1606143192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Commentary by Sergey Belyayev]

[Text] On 20 June the Russian parliament will consider the activities of the mass media.

Do you recall how certain elected representatives of the people raged during the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies when the press was being discussed? Remember how the air shook with angry outbursts demanding reports from Poltoranin, Poptsov, and Yakovlev and how the desire to take reprisals against them and at the same time all their journalistic brethren was clearly to be seen then on the faces of a certain section of the corps of deputies? With what sins did they not charge the press?

Obviously many people had forgotten that the press is a kind of mirror which reflects everything taking place in society, and according to the Russian saying there is no use blaming the mirror if you do not like what you see. However, that is not our present subject of discussion. The congress in fact did not take reprisals against the press. In the event the congress instructed parliament to look into the mass media.

The events of 12 June outside the Ostankino television center have reminded me of many episodes during the Sixth Congress. Only this time people were raging not in the Kremlin Palace but on the grass outside the television and radio center and they were thirsting very much for reprisals against all those who think in a different way from those who had gathered under the red banners and angry, at times insulting slogans. The impatience characteristic of the national-communist patriots was presented to the eyes of the viewers in all its aggressive unseemliness.

A notable thing is that there were fleeting glimpses of the faces of people's deputies among the angry fierce people storming Ostankino. Well, on this occasion they truly were together with their own people, because for them "their own people" in the full sense of the term are the pogrom-makers and provocateurs. A surprising unity occurred on the day. This then is what they are like—these elected representatives of the people—who are leading society along the path toward a law-governed state, while provoking and calling with amazing frivolity for unlawful actions.

On 20 June the Russian parliament will be considering the activities of the mass media. However the events of 12 June showed that it would be far more fitting to discuss the work of the mass media amidst conditions of siege by the national-communist patriots. Incidentally, it will be interesting to see whether our parliament reacts to the activities of some of their colleagues on Russia's Independence Day. I think that they are far more in need of appraisal by our legislators and also by the law-enforcement bodies.

KGB Hosts First Public Meeting at Lubyanka

LD1206124892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] A meeting has been held at the KGB, evidently in an attempt to reduce tension among various political parties and movements.

[Correspondent A. Lutskiy] The famous Lubyanka, which used to be the most secretive department of all, for the first time threw open its doors to representatives of all political parties and public movements of Russia. Here, in the Orekhovyy Hall, where the KGB collegium used to hold its sessions, they met those in charge of the Russian Federation Ministry of Security.

The ministry's employees replied to more than 50 questions of concern to the leaders of political parties and public organizations, and a frank discussion ensued. The meeting discussed problems of the KGB archives, rehabilitation, terrorism, the preservation of Russian statehood, guarantees that Russia's citizens have rights and liberties, and assurances that the Russian-speaking population in the former Union republics will be protected.

It was emphasized that the new ministry renounces, as a matter of principle, the practice of keeping files on politicians and public figures. The ministry has been completely depoliticized and freed from any influence by any political party and it has but one task: to defend Russia.

Party Leaders Attend

LD1106231192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2101 GMT 11 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikolay Zheleznov and Sergey Oleynik]

[Text] Moscow June 11 TASS—Leaders of 56 Russian political parties flocked to the sprawling gray building of the former KGB headquarters in Moscow's Lyubyanka Street today to meet senior officials from the Russian Security Ministry.

The meeting was held at the initiative of Russian security chiefs, eager to get together with those who only a couple of years ago would have appeared here only as "suspects".

"There is after all a force in the country, which can bring us together," quipped Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party.

However, as ministry spokesman Andrey Chernenko explained, the meeting was held "in response to requests by many parties".

Valentina Tikhanova, co-chair of the Memorial Society used the occasion to pitch for the rights of relatives of Russians purged during Stalin's years. Relatives living abroad face immense difficulties in obtaining information about the victims, she said.

Asked if the ministry still keeps the eye on political dissidents, using old KGB methods, Ksenofont Ippolitov, chief of the ministry's analytical department said: "You interest me only as representatives of certain political movements. However, I satisfy my interest through open sources, such as published party programmes and public statements and interviews."

"We do not gather information about certain individuals from field agents," Ippolitov said.

However, if political leaders break the law, tapping services could get involved with a sanction by the prosecutor's office, Chernenko added.

Participants have decided to meet regularly every three months.

Security Clean-Up Extends to Local Levels

PM1206152192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Jun 92 p 2

[V. Filin report under the "Questions of the Week" rubric: "Iron Hand in the Lubyanka Once More?"]

[Text] Russian Security Minister V. Barannikov's order dismissing unscrupulous Ministry of Security generals and officers "from the ranks" has caused a sensation. A collegium session was held, after which an order was issued relieving of their posts and dismissing Generals V. Klishin (of counterintelligence), N. Yermakov, V. Lisin, Officers Martynov and Romakhov (economic structures), Assistant First Deputy Minister Doroshenko, and many other officials. The total number of people who "found their way" into the order tops 80. They are accused of none too scrupulous actions—some of a conspiratorial nature—over housing operations, and also of making personal use of funds assigned to pay agents and other expenses in the battle against organized crime. Whether there is anything criminal in their actions will be determined by the prosecutor's office, to which the materials of the investigation have, according to official information, been passed. The group order was immediately followed by the announcement of the dismissal "for health reasons" of First Deputy Minister A. Oleynikov.

It is entirely likely that the concern over the purity of Ministry of Security ranks will not end at the central apparatus, but will also presumably reach provincial subunits, and also sanatoriums, dacha facilities, hospitals, and so forth.

The other major event in the Ministry of Security's life can be considered to be the return of the border troops to the Ministry of Security structure, which, in connection with the foregoing, suggests Barannikov's serious intentions of returning to the ministry the former power and prestige of state security.

Deputy Minister Notes Instances of Corruption

PM1206135192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jun 92 p 4

[Arkadiy Semenyaka report; "'We Know About the Mafia Structures,' Andrey Dunayev, Russian First Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Has Stated"]

[Text] What is life like for the subprefect of the capital's "Krylatskoye" municipal district? Bad, very bad. Because criminal proceedings have been instituted against him on a charge of extorting bribes to a value of 1 million rubles [R] from an official in return for the ratification of a contract on joint work on the construction of a trade center.

The subprefect will not construct it after all. The subprefect was caught red-handed receiving part of the bribe—R500,000. And when his house and place of work were searched, another R1 million-plus, around $7,000, an assault rifle with a loaded magazine, a foreign-made pistol, and 10 (!) video cameras were seized.

A corrupt group of workers in the Kabardino-Balkaria tax service was also exposed as having repeatedly taken bribes, and criminal proceedings were instituted against a head of department at the Russian Federation Bank for Foreign Economic Activity. The criminal activity of the head of the credit department at the Main Moscow Construction Bank and his deputy was stopped. The prosecutor of the department for the oversight of investigation and inquiry in the internal affairs organs at the Moscow Prosecutor's Office special group for combating organized crime was also arrested while receiving bribes worth a large sum.

These and other cases show that corruption has affected many organs of power and management and has penetrated the law enforcement sphere and structures carrying out privatization, conversion, export and import operations, and the distribution of stocks of output in short supply, premises, plots of land, and state orders.

According to operational data, around 2,600 criminal groups are operating in Russia, of which 485 have links with corruption. Over 800 groups are facing legal proceedings, and one-fourth of them have interstate and interregional links. Around 100 groups are protected by corrupt officials in organs of power and management. In a number of regions over 250 representatives of power and management officially combine their main work with activity in commercial structures. These include around 157 people's deputies at all levels and 65 leaders of major enterprises and institutions.

In short, it is no coincidence that the decree of the president of the Russian Federation "On Combating Corruption in the State Service System" was issued. The Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] has started implementing it.

"Every corrupt official will have to account for his actions under the law"—that was how Lieutenant General Andrey Dunayev concluded his address to Russian and foreign journalists in the Russian MVD Public Relations Center 9 June.

Well, the fight continues. Its results will depend not only on the courage of the personnel of law enforcement organs, but primarily on the positions of the parliament and government. After all, there is still no law on combating organized crime or an overall program for this purpose.

Allegations of Sale of Charitable Aid Denied

PM1206103292 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jun 92 First Edition p 8

[Sofya Shishkina report: "Once Said..."]

[Text] $24 million—that is the price of a journalist's mistake. That is the sum at which Mikhail Chekulev, president of the Fineks company, values the material damage done to his firm by the newspaper KURANTY. The newspaper reported that charitable aid from the American Orthodox Mission is being sold in commercial stores by Fineks.

At a news conference in the Danilov Monastery Yevgeniy Safyan, consultant at the Moscow Patriarchate Department of Church Charity and Social Services, refuted this report, describing it as a lie, and stressed that Fineks is involved only in the storage of freight. But the damage was done. Further deliveries of charitable aid are in jeopardy.

Investigation Into Pit Disaster Continues

LD1506200192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1230 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Report by correspondent G.Ye. Kondaurov in Donetsk on the aftermath of the Sukhodolskaya-Vostochnaya mining disaster]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] It must be said that, for some reason, the coverage of this event is taking on a political tinge in the press and on television. It is being claimed that government reports on the accident are very condensed, and that the government commission is trying to hush this up, as happened in Chernobyl. In fact, that is not so. The fact is, that even today, the fifth day after the accident, the government commission does not have reliable information about its causes.

The methane explosion at a depth of 915 meters put out of operation the eastern block of the mine. The accident was colossal. The underground ventilation system has been destroyed. Large tracts of the mine workings are filled with carbon monoxide. There is virtually no oxygen there, and the temperature is very high. Only mine rescuers with respirators and individual air supplies can function in such conditions. Simply no one else can get there. Moreover, cave-ins are continuing. [passage omitted]

The most experienced and best mine rescue units from Lugansk, Donetsk, and Rostov oblasts have been assembled to clear up the accident. Now they are searching for three miners who have not yet been brought out from under the fallen rock, and also for rescuers who were themselves buried by fallen rock as they searched for miners. [passage omitted]

Last night, experts and members of the government commission were able to break through to the site of the explosion. Previously all attempts to do this had failed. They partially inspected the destroyed workings, but for the time being the epicenter of the explosion has not been determined, and so far it is difficult to say whether there was one or a whole series of explosions. One possible cause was a coal dust explosion.

The number of deaths caused by the accident has already reached 58, and 30 miners are now hospitalized in Lugansk and other towns, some of them in a very serious condition with severe burns.

Efforts to mop up the accident are continuing round-the-clock, and never stop.

I think that a few days from now, we will have a report on the real cause of this major accident.

Bakatin Responds to DEN Editor's Remarks

PM1206135392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Valeriy Yakov: "Vadim Bakatin: Mr. Prokhanov Obviously Got Scared"]

[Text] Yesterday's issue of IZVESTIYA published material entitled "Foreign Intelligence Receives the Key to Russia's Secret Codes," which reported on the appearance in the pages of DEN of a coded telegram from the permanent Russian representative to the United Nations. Commenting on the situation, A. Prokhanov, chief editor of DEN, stated that DEN would be glad to be placed in the dock next to Bakatin. In this connection, Vadim Bakatin, whom we spoke to on the telephone, told your IZVESTIYA correspondent the following:

"First. Mr. Prokhanov evidently must have done something bad and got really scared to have suddenly decided to drag me into his company and be prepared to be 'glad' to hide behind my narrow back to demonstrate his concept of decency. But I think that everyone has his own responsibility. I always answer for myself and will continue to do so. Aleksandr Prokhanov will doubtless have to undergo the procedure envisaged by law himself if such a need arises. And those whose job it is to do so, will decide whether his actions contain the elements of a crime. I am not judging him. And I have answered for myself in the Russian Prosecutor's Office.

"Second. A propos of the fact that he is aware that I am being 'accused'—he is right. **He** is certainly 'aware' of this, since it is none other than Mr. Prokhanov and his ilk who are accusing me. However, he is out of his depth, since judging by the fiasco with the publication of the coded telegram, he does not have much idea about the problems of 'secret intelligence.'

"Third. I doubt that Mr. Prokhanov is prepared to suffer alone for his convictions. He will not be the one to suffer, it will be those whom he is systematically pushing toward the abyss of hatred and coercion who will suffer."

Intelligence Service Tries for Debt Deferment

LD1706073392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Lieutenant General Vyacheslav Trubnikov, first deputy director of the Foreign Intelligence Service, has stated that Russia's foreign intelligence service is waging a struggle for the deferment of the payment by the republic of $16 billion in debts. This is the very condition which has been set by some Western experts in exchange for Russians receiving the $24 billion promised by the IMF.

Gen. Trubnikov replied to a question by the weekly MEGAPOLIS EKSPRESS about what precisely the Russian special services are worried about in regard to the package of aid granted. The general noted that one should not rely entirely on Western investors.

Trade Unions Prepare for Collective Actions

LD1306181592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1530 GMT 12 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow June 12 TASS—The coordinating committee of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR], at its first meeting here today, expressed readiness to coordinate working people's actions of protest in July.

A statement issued by the committee points out that the Federation of Independent Trade Unions considers it its duty to coordinate the collective actions of working people, direct them into the channel of a law-defined procedure to resolve social-and-labour conflicts and avert ungovernable spontaneous action.

The committee urged the government to make public and implement a pin-point schedule for the provision of regions with cash to eliminate arrears in the payment of wages, pensions, allowances and student grants, and to take measures of social protection of the population from a further decline in the living standards in view of the growing prices of energy resources.

Ultimatum Delivered

LD1606140992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Igor Klochkov, Chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR], has delivered an ultimatum to the Russian Government to resolve the social problems which have come to a head.

The federation's main demands include the elimination of the backlog of unpaid debts, the guarantee of enterprises' solvency, and the reinforcement of the population's social protection in connection with price increases.

If these and other demands touching upon the interests of working people be ignored, Igor Klochkov told an ITAR-TASS correspondent, FITUR will call upon its affiliated organizations to take part in Russian-wide protest actions.

Let me remind you that the Federation of Independent Trade Unions is a major professional association of

Russia which arose on the basis of the Russian branch of the All-Union Confederation of Trade Unions.

Nationwide Strike Threatened

OW1206175792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1457 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At its session in Moscow the Coordinating Committee of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR] put forward its demands to the government. If they are not fulfilled an All-Russian strike may begin. Delay in salary's payments and uncontrolled growth of prices are the main problems.

The government is proposed to announce and realize a schedule for providing different regions with cash: for regions of the Extreme North and equal to it provinces—before June 20, in Russia as a whole—before July 15. The solvency of the enterprises and organizations is to be provided before July 1, especially of those which are in debt due to the miscalculations of the government in its credit-financial and price policy.

The FITUR threatens to halt its participation in the trilateral commission which has knocked itself out by disrupting a session on June 11, the chairman of the FITUR says.

National Assembly Shadow Cabinet Claim Queried

MK1606155192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jun 92 p 3

[Vladimir Todres report under the "Russia" rubric: "'Russia Must be a Normal Great Power,' Russian National Assembly Declares. Govorukhin Said That He Agrees"]

[Excerpts] While Anpilov's red convoys were organizing street celebrations outside the Ostankino TV Center to mark independence day, the national-patriots were celebrating in Moscow's most fashionable meeting places: The Russian National Assembly's second congress began 12 June in the House of Unions Hall of Columns and continued the next day in the former Academy of Social Sciences. [passage omitted]

In an interview with your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent, Aleksandr Sterligov, a former KGB general, claimed that the assembly had already formed a shadow cabinet which, although it is not publicizing itself, is ready to take power immediately. This is doubtful, however. Sakhalin's governor, Valentin Fedorov, whom the assembly's constituent congress in Nizhniy Novgorod named as their candidate for premier six months ago, is known to have declined the honor. As for other ministers, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA was told by CPSU Central Committee veteran Gennadiy Zyuganov, who was elected to the assembly's council, that "absolutely any leader of a major production unit with an ability for economic analysis and a corresponding dash of courage would govern better than this government." So far Konstantin Anuchin, head of Nizhniy Novgorod's commodity exchange, is the only industrialist of any standing to have found the "corresponding dash of courage" and the will even to take part in the congress, and he is openly funding the assembly.

The assembly's links with the hard-line parliamentary opposition are far more obvious. Deputies Mikhail Astafyev and Nikolay Pavlov took part in the first day of the congress and then left with their colleague Konstantinov for a tour of troop units.

However, the lack of major politicians was more than made up for by the wealth of cultural big names: Present were writer Oleg Volkov, actress Tatyana Doronina, weightlifter and journalist Yuriy Vlasov, producer Stanislav Govorukhin, and orator Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

They were all greeted with applause, and Govorukhin subsequently told your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent behind the scenes that he "agreed with many of the ideas voiced here."

After electing the council (which included among others General Makashov and representatives of "Working Russia") the assembly decided to create cells "at enterprises and in villages."

Observers note that while wasting time on buffoonery and over-emotional speeches, the patriots are nonetheless becoming more organized with every congress they hold.

Sterligov Condemns Government

OW1206193392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1512 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO; all figures as received]

[Text] Former KGB General Aleksandr Sterligov co-chairing the nationalistic-patriotic organisation called Russian National Congress has sharply condemned the activities of Russia's government. Addressing the organisation's conference in Moscow he accused the present authorities of "reducing the country to penury" and warned that "Boris Yeltsin risks becoming an enemy of the people".

The retired General criticized the government for "failure to advance any clear national or statehood idea and attempts to turn Russia into a raw material appendage to developed capitalist countries". A. Sterligov appealed to the conference delegates and the party supporters "to block the insane imitation of western models of development alien to Russia". He alleged that free sale of land into private property finds support among 94% of Germans living in Russia, 4% of Jews, and only 21% of Russian farmers. Sterligov called on all patriots "from Communists to nationalists", to unite for a common

goal: removal from power of the President and resignation of the present government - a government "of high treason".

'Right Wing' Organization Holds Rally in Moscow

LD1606210392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Report by correspondent I. Minayev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Perhaps there were even more flags—incidentally not red ones but black, yellow, and white ones—to be found in the center of Moscow today, at the monument to the heroes of Plevna, where the Union for Russia's Rebirth [Soyuz vozrozhdeniya Rossii] was holding a rally. It is an organization in opposition to the present government and president. The choice of the venue and the colors of the flag were no coincidence. It is the intention of the rally organizers that both should remind Russians of other times, when Russia not only did not betray its Slav neighbors but liberated them from alien oppression.

The Union for Russia's Rebirth is a rightwing-centrist organization, uniting young politicians from the constitutional-democratic and democratic parties and the Russian Christian Democratic Movement and also the intelligentsia who do not belong to any party. It is against using force in overthrowing anyone. The union's leaders believe that as a result of communism having come under fire, another target, that of the state, was hit and the people have been thrown into an abyss of feuding and internecine warfare.

Representatives from North Ossetia, the Dniester region, and Ukraine arrived to take part in the rally. [video shows R. Sorokin, chairman of the Christian Democratic Movement of the Ukraine, speaking]

[Begin Sorokin recording] The situation in which our peoples have now found themselves, in which they are being set off against each other, to satisfy our leaders' political ambitions, is fraught with very serious and grave consequences. [end recording]

Wreaths were laid at the building of the former CPSU Central Committee—now a government building. The ribbons on the wreaths were adorned by inscriptions: Eternal memory to the Russian democratic reforms!; Glorious memory to food!; To Gavriil Kharitonovich from the Unwashed of Moscow!; and others, no less sarcastic. [video shows rally; cuts to show D. Rogozin, member of the Political Council of the Union for Russia's Rebirth, being interviewed by Minayev]

[Minayev] Rallies produce words. Maybe they are beautiful words but they are merely words. What is your organization's program?

[Rogozin] I think that the situation can still be remedied. However, it is possible to remedy it by one method alone: to re-elect all the authorities we now have in Russia.

'New Russia' Faults Officials for Ossetia Fray

OW1606213592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1928 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A delegation from the block "New Russia" recently visited Tskhinvali, the administrative center of South Ossetia, and feels that Georgia is committing genocide. At a press conference in Moscow Tuesday [16 June] members of the delegation stressed that Georgia is conducting its policy "with the tolerance of the leadership of the Caucasian Military District" headquartered in Tbilisi. The helicopter and engineering regiments stationed in Tskhinvali "watch over the destruction of the city" which is under constant fire.

A statement by the "New Russia" block was presented at the press conference. The statement says that the "cause for the escalation of the conflict was the irresponsibility of the high political government, including Russia, in providing the Georgian government with weapons of mass destruction and other weapons from the Caucasian Military District". The delegation demanded that the Russian government use all political and military means at its disposal to separate the conflicting sides and intiate talks and the peace-making process.

The delegation said that the conflicting sides should be given an ultimatum on an immediate cease-fire, and responsibility for ensuring that agreements are observed should be placed on the helicopter regiments of the Commonwealth forces stationed in Tskhinvali.

Yeltsin's First Year as President Assessed

PM1206154892 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Jun 92 First Edition pp 1-2

[Inna Muravyeva article under the rubric "Recent History": "Hard for the People—Hard for the President"]

[Text] A year ago we elected our first president. It was our test of civil maturity. Henceforth the question who is to head Russia would be decided not in the corridors of the Politburo, behind closed doors, but publicly, by all the people, openly. We were invited to choose. For ourselves. Candidates to suit every taste. Supporters and defenders of socialism pinned their hopes on Nikolay Ryzhkov; "strong-arm" romantics on the straightforward and belligerent Albert Makashov; those who wanted change, those who shuddered when they learned the truth about themselves, about the millions of casualties and the true role of the "mind, honor, and conscience of our era" in destroying the world order, voted for Yeltsin.

At that time the world was still applauding Gorbachev, who had begun to lift the iron curtain. "Gorby, Gorby!"—people in the Western hemisphere rapturously greeted the first president of the USSR. At first their attitude toward Yeltsin, the "Russian bear," was cautious. Even before his election Italy's LA REPUBBLICA had published an "expose" of the then disgraced Communist leader Yeltsin. At the time, members of "politburos big and small" seized on this publication. It was read out at study sessions in various political clubs and political schools by indefatigable party fighters. And their grown-up students, emerging from these study sessions, said to each other under their breath: "Hey, you know why they've got it in for Yeltsin so much? He clamped down on that Moscow mafia, so they're all out for revenge." All of us wanted to see him as a real hero, our real champion! Some kind of Robin Hood.

He very soon became for us not "Comrade Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin," but first plain Boris Nikolayevich, and then—on banners and hand-written placards at numerous demonstrations in support of democratic transformations—just Boris. Remember: "Boris, go for it!" Or—after Yegor Kuzmich Ligachev's remark: "Boris, you're wrong!—the street promptly paraphrased that expression and turned it into the exact opposite: "Boris, you're right!" And there was nothing excessively familiar or offhand about this. It was more a sign of sincere respect and faith that he would not let us down.

So when, a year ago, out of the six candidates (five of whom were supported by the state machine, which, though rusted through by then, was still strong and menacing), Yeltsin secured victory in the first round, for his supporters this meant that the reforms had a future.

On the eve of the elections Academician Shatalin wrote: "In the present situation the only necessary, though not sufficient, condition of the implementation of reforms in Russia and countrywide is the election as Russian president of Boris Yeltsin, who for all his ambivalence as a politician has undoubtedly shown that he is not only willing, but able to move forward. Naturally, he must learn to be more thoughtful, less emotional, and more capable of objectively necessary compromises."

I think our president is trying to master the art of big politics. We remember him at the first session after the suppression of the August putsch. Gorbachev is "at liberty." He is present in the auditorium. And the first president of Russia, carried away by victory, childishly fervent, even provocative, signs, in the general secretary's presence, a resolution suspending the activity of local Communist Party structures. He has kept his promise about depoliticization. His supporters applauded him. No doubt nowadays Boris Nikolayevich would act differently—less emotionally, more thoughtfully. But at that time he was the popular hero, the man who saved the country from the SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency] dictatorship. Among themselves, the deputies referred to him affectionately as simply "B.N." They continued to take no notice of the distance that was bound to appear between the state's top man and the deputies. They still simply walked into the president's office with questions, big and not so big. But by then he was becoming—he could not help becoming—different. No, not arrogant, just very busy. Tensions developed in parliament. Deputies were indignant—you can't get near Yeltsin! Then they found the explanation—people are trying to isolate the president; he is fed measured doses of information. The president was criticized mercilessly. And then—the first meeting with representatives of factions, followed by more meetings... Did the president draw the right conclusions? I think so. And so did the deputies. As for his meetings with the people, they continue, just like in the first months of his presidency. True, it is becoming increasingly difficult for him to inspire optimism. Although he has remained unchanged on the most important point—he speaks honestly and without guile about the difficulties that still lie ahead. Does he expect to meet with understanding? That his prestige will have the desired effect? How can we tell...

At the same time, there are more and more critics of his policy. He is now blamed for the Belovezhskaya agreements, the disintegration of the army, our hard life. Yes, we are already able to forget how we blamed the center, how we suffered as a result of Gorbachev's irresolution, how we chanted at every rally: "Give the green light to reforms!", how we blessed the president for taking unpopular steps. He assumed responsibility for the government's activity. He was what the country needed at this stage.

During the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies he "maintained silence." Arriving on the last day to deliver the concluding speech, he said: The reforms will continue, the reinforced opposition has not reversed them, and the game played at the congress ended in "a draw in our favor." The opposition at the congress failed to turn Yeltsin aside from his course and make the government resign.

Now, mastering the art of compromise, the president has brought new people into the Cabinet of Ministers. And now a new opposition—from the democratic movement—is prepared to dissociate itself from him. Because of his compromise. But Yeltsin once again sweeps aside the accusations and stated the other day that he will continue to head the Cabinet of Ministers, that he will pursue the path of reforms to the end.

All the same, dissatisfaction with him is increasing. His opponents are becoming increasingly aggressive, making use of even the vilest methods. On 14 May, for instance, Vladimir Isakov stated: "The Russian president was drunk in an official situation." He then submitted to the Supreme Soviet, as a legislative initiative, the draft Law "On Amendments and Additions to Article 11 of the Law on the Russian Federation President." In an explanatory memo Isakov stressed: "The Russian Federation law on Russian presidential elections stipulates that new elections can be called by the Congress of People's

Deputies, in particular, in the event that the president of the Russian Federation is incapable of exercising his presidential powers. Under the Constitution and the Law on the Russian Federation President, the president's powers are exercised by the vice president pending new elections." Yes, many people in the opposition pin their faith on Rutskoy. Admittedly as a transitional figure.

...You can't envy politicians their lives. After the victory in the Persian Gulf President Bush had the support of 90 percent of voters, now it is only 35 percent. Voters need victories. And here they are right, in their way. Our president has had few victories yet. The reforms are proceeding with difficulty. Dissatisfaction is growing. The population is getting poorer. Even those who have always been regarded as law-abiding citizens have gone on strike—teachers, medics. There is a worrying situation on the borders with the "sister republics." Blood is already flowing. The army is disintegrating. All the same, let us be objective. Yeltsin inherited a hard legacy. And a heavy burden fell on the shoulders of Russia's first president.

Stanislav Govorukhin's film "The Russia We Lost" was screened in the White House recently. The audience included deputies from factions that now belong to the bloc of opposition to the president—representatives of the "Communists of Russia," "Fatherland," "Rossiya." During the film there was a deathly hush. People parted rather thoughtfully, quietly. I heard one deputy from the "Communists of Russia" faction saying: "Well, ye-es... Who can say, maybe we really were deceived all our lives? Everyone used to chant: Most free, most mighty... But if you think about it... How come we are such an unfortunate people?"

But maybe we are unfortunate because we don't think much? We grew used to "always living heroically"—in a heroic past, a heroic present, a heroic future. And we wanted to see our leaders as titans. But maybe we should have simply GOT ON WITH LIFE? With dignity, sensibly, in plenty. Without creating idols, but also without trampling underfoot those who manage to be bold and take risks, who can take the first step. Things were easier for our past rulers: An obedient press pictured the latest leader only in an edited version emphasizing his greatness and importance. Yeltsin is open and guileless, and therefore vulnerable.

In his year as president he has made blunders, serious ones at that. But he was able to acknowledge his mistakes and continue along the path set.

Tolstoy said: "To live honorably you have to rush at things, get things wrong, make mistakes, start things and abandon them, start again and abandon it again, and go on eternally fighting and losing. But tranquillity is spiritual baseness."

Who knows what will happen around the next sharp bend in history?... Life is, of course, incredibly difficult. Sometimes it seems like we cannot hold out. But all the same... Those who call us back, to our old home, are deceiving us. That home is no longer there. It has collapsed, because it was bound to collapse—rotten materials were used in its foundations. We have to build a new one.

"Our clock has struck the hour of courage"... At this difficult period in history, may courage not desert our president, nor the people who elected him.

Cabinet Changes Seen As Return to Past Practice

PM1506101592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Jun 92 p 1

[Article by Colonel V. Gavrilenko: "Number of Vice Premiers Increased. Change of Course or Second Stage of Reforms?"]

[Text] On the eve of the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies Yegor Gaydar said in a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA interview that it was his government's difficult lot to launch what others had thus far shirked, namely, radical economic reforms. The first vice premier described these steps as socially divisive and was aware of the kind of criticism which would assail him. And assail him it did. The Congress was its culminating point. There was the decision to resign. Then the restoration of confidence through the efforts of the president. And the main conclusion was drawn: The reforms are to continue. With provisos, amendments, and adjustments. Particularly as it was President Boris Yeltsin himself who promised them. Including changes in the government. So the appearance of new people in it has scarcely been a bombshell, as some people thought.

But a closer look at the event has, nevertheless, revealed something unexpected. The changes in or, more accurately, the additions to the government have occurred not at the ministerial, but at what one might call the vice premier level. A sectorial principle for their responsibilities has emerged. Is this a good or a bad thing? This might remind us of the not-so-distant times of "curatorship" by members of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo or USSR Council of Ministers Bureaus. But why should the restoration of this principle actually cause alarm? Just because it existed deep within the administrative edict system?

So it is not, as we can see, a new arrangement. And it is scarcely worth rushing to pass critical judgment on it. What is important is something else—that is, new people have come into the government. By all accounts, the idea here is simpler than all the fanciful speculation in the mass media—the hope clearly is that the new deputy chairmen will to a substantial extent give specific shape to, centralize, and straighten out the leadership of the sectors of the economy. Personal responsibility will clearly be tightened up. Daily intervention in economic affairs will inevitably increase. The new vice premiers are former "production workers." Vladimir Shumeyko was general director of the "Krasnodarskiy ZIP" production association before being elected a deputy of the

Russian parliament. Viktor Chernomyrdin followed a career path from worker to plant director and minister of the Union gas industry and is a doctor of technical sciences. Georgiy Khizha is a mechanical engineer and doctor of technical sciences who has worked in the defense industry. Aleksandr Shokhin and Anatoliy Chubays are people who are already well enough known.

But what has agitated the press and the public to an equal extent is the question of whether the advent of the "production workers" will alter the course of continuing the reforms. I do not think it will, because the changes in government and the intentions associated with them are underwritten by the stance of the Russian president. And he, as is well known, remains in favor of the reforms. The same goes, of course, for Yegor Gaydar. And in his opinion, as the editorial office was told by the vice premier's press secretary, Sergey Kolesnikov, the appearance of new people will not be detrimental to the course of reforms.

We will soon see how the vice premiers sort out relations between themselves and with parliament and the president, a topic about which there are now so many different interpretations. There are many contradictory forecasts in the press at present. But for some reason the fact that a whole group headed by Gaydar, with Shumeyko as his deputy, is now working at a government "dacha" has passed unnoticed. Proposals on the new structure of government are being prepared. This is bound up precisely with the second stage of reforms. So, it seems to me, Gaydar will scarcely retreat into the background. Incidentally, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has denied rumors of the possible resignation of Gaydar's government. In conversation with journalists after addressing the leading personnel of the Russian Army he stated that, in his opinion, the Gaydar team is operating in a cohesive way.

Returning to the pre-Congress KRASNAYA ZVEZDA interview, I would like to remind people of the anxiety and chagrin with which Yegor Gaydar spoke about the difficulties of the first steps of the reform and the low level of efficiency...Since the Congress, as he himself now notes, there has been a sharp rise in the level of efficiency in the economy. This is encouraging. The new government appointments should, I think, bolster those hopes.

The only troubling thing perhaps is that the changes in the government are accompanied by a very well organized and vocal pressure campaign. The new people have yet to start work, yet to show themselves in any way, but people are already rushing to pin on them the labels of "stooges of the military-industrial complex," "conservatives," and "opponents of reforms." Perhaps the country does need pragmatists, practical people, and organizers most of all. Who could be dissatisfied by this? Only those who would still like to destroy, overthrow, and indulge in rally politics....

Union Leader on Future Agrarian Reforms Center

PM1606134192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Yelena Yakovleva: "When You Help the Individual Farmer, Consult with Him Himself"]

[Text] A recent government session approved the idea of creating an agrarian reforms center. Officially it has not yet been submitted but its future active participants are already beginning to make themselves known.

One of them is the Agro-industrial Union (IZVESTIYA has already written about it). Recently its president, Ye.M. Grinev, held a news conference under the title "true state of affairs in agriculture." Yevgeniy Mikhaylovich read journalists a 90-minute lecture whose main idea is indisputable, albeit not new. The macroeconomic conflict which has been revealed most acutely in the price discrepancy for industrial and agricultural output and today is more topical for the fate of the economy than the already traditional struggle between the private farmer and collective farm strategy.

And now the Agro-industrial Union intends to play the role of agriculture's savior in this conflict. It wants to "coordinate the fulfillment of a number of programs" of the future agrarian reforms center: programs for construction, the supply of manufacturing equipment, conversion, and so forth. Their thrust is to construct houses, farms, roads, and hospitals, to buy miniplants for processing milk and meat, and to involve the military-industrial complex in the production of agricultural machinery—you cannot list everything but it is all for the benefit of the rural producer. The question remains: with whose money?

The agro-industrial union is a public organization. It has 16 founders, including the Russian Agricultural Bank, the "Vodstroy" concern, the "Zarechenskiy" state farm, and others. And the members are mostly large-scale agricultural producers—agricultural combines, agricultural complexes—and industrial enterprises and firms. For some reason they pay "membership dues" or shares. Anything—it may be two cubic kilometers of Krasnoyarsk pine or 1 million bricks. That is probably how the agricultural benevolent fund will be formed. Actually, either the Agro-industrial Union or the specific benefactor will determine how and whom to favor and on what terms. For instance, the "Vodstroy" concern decides to help some state farm with land reclamation work and will determine for itself how, in what volume, and for what price it will perform this work and will merely present the bill to the state farm. And it may emerge from this bill that the state farm will not settle accounts with "Vodstroy" in a hundred years. I specially asked Grinev: Who will be the project's client? And he replied: the executor himself.

So one does not really believe that one of the founders of the Agro-industrial Union, "Vodstroy," will rush to save an agricultural producer. From whom? From itself?

Evidently the ROKAP [Russian Corporation for Agricultural Processing] corporation and in particular its "field to store" program is the "close sister" of the agro-industrial union in terms of its declaration of its aims as savior and the nature of its treatment of those it saves. The role of the saved in this corporation is ascribed to the farmers. The corporation is also an active member of the future Center of Agrarian Reforms and has decided to construct well equipped individual farms, storage bases, roads, and so forth for immediate occupation. The program is a fine one but again the individual farmer does not figure at all in the role of client.

We have gotten hold of the draft decree of the Russian president on this program. It contains implausible credit, tax, and currency benefits for the corporation. One fails to understand on what grounds. Yes, the government is "doomed" to support agriculture. But why are the first in line for benefits not the agricultural producers but those who have declared themselves to be champions of and experts in the true state of affairs in agriculture.

But so as not to throw the baby out with the bathwater: The very idea that the countryside needs aid for construction and equipment is undoubted. The idea of agrarian reform as a capital-intensive process is indeed salutary. The vice-president and curator who can "attract" this capital into agriculture is a real find! The only question is, how will it be done?

Rutskoy Adviser Answers Opponents' Objections

OW1206213492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1525 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As it was already reported, a project on the creation of a center of land and agrarian-industrial reform in Russia presented by the Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy was discussed at the session of the Government on June 4. Boris Yeltsin ordered to develop a decree on creation a center considering the remarks put forward by the members of the Cabinet before June 15.

An "IF" 's [INTERFAX] correspondent Marina Chernukha asked the adviser of the Vice President Igor Gavrilov to make comments on the main objections of the Vice President's opponents minding that Rutskoy is in charge of agriculture. IF note: 54-year old Igor Gavrilnv is among the leading specialists on ecology in Russia. He is a Doctor of Sciences and occupied a post of the Minister of Ecology in Ivan Silayev's government.

According to Gavrilov, these objections at the session of the government were caused by two separate attitudes. Rutskoy's proposal on strengthening the administrative functions of the government by creating an agrarian block consisting of several ministries and institutions and headed by one of the Vice Premiers was sharply criticized.

The opponents say, Gavrilov continues, that this approach "allegedly violates an ecology-resource block created at the time Ivan Silayev headed the government. This block which was under control of one of the Vice Premiers functioned in such a way that practically all the ministries and committees which it united were autonomous. "Ideology" of this block was based on paid exploitation of land. Gavrilov is sure that "the most serious error of the Russian government is that it transfers the majority of our resources to the state enterprises without payment".

Opponents of Rutskoy's concept believe that the new block will "tear" the committee on water resources or committee on forest from the ecology-resource block. Gavrilov sticks to an opposite opinion. He thinks that while implementing the land reform it is necessary to consider the unity of land, water, and forest resources. Any changes in priorities of the economic reform may lead ;to the reform of the organizational-administrative structures.

Gavrilov underlined that the Minister of Agriculture Viktor Khlystun "has certain concerns" as created by Rutskoy center may become "a superministry". It will not occur. Boris Yeltsin strictly defined that this center will be "a strategic structure facilitating the implementation of the land and agrarian-industrial reform". The Ministry of Agriculture can effectively maintain operational management.

Another objection of the opponents was connected with the sources of saturation of the Center of the land and agrarian-industrial reform. Allocated by the government funds are widely "spread" and not used for the realization of concrete projects which underwent expertize. The Fund is to implement all the programmes after an expertize conducted from two points of view - their correspondence to the modern standards and crediting. The sponsors of the Fund are to conduct the expertise as they are interested to use their money with a maximum benefit. Besides this Fund is to fulfil a number of other functions and involvement of foreign investments among them.

Supreme Soviet

Session Doubts Legality of Gaydar Appointment

LD1706095792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0819 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow June 17 TASS—The House of Nationalities of the Russian parliament decided on Wednesday [17 June] to discuss the legality of the presidential decree on the appointment of Yegor Gaydar as acting prime minister.

The move followed the statement of Andrey Golovin, the leader of the "Smena-New Policy" parliamentary

group, who told the House that the Russian Constitution contains no norms providing legal grounds for such an appointment.

However, Sergey Krasavchenko, chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Economic Reform, responded that the Constitution does not contain any norm prohibiting the appointment either.

The house adopted a similar decision concerning the presidential decree on bankruptcy. Deputy Vladimir Bokov qualified the document as "a challenge to the parliament" which had blocked the lawbill on banrkuptcy.

Press Access To Presidium Sessions Restricted

LD1706044192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 16 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Summary] The Russian Supreme Soviet has introduced restrictive measures on the press. Only representatives of three agencies will be admitted to Presidium sessions from now on, namely those of ITAR-TASS, RIA, and INTERFAX.

Nuclear Tests at Novaya Zemlya on Agenda

LD1606184792 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] The Ecological and Defense Committees of the Russian Parliament will hold a joint meeting today to discuss the problem of nuclear tests on the Archipelago Novaya Zemlya in the Arctic Ocean. They are to work out recommendations to be submitted to parliament. After the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test ground where the former Soviet Union carried out explosions in military and civilian purposes, the test field on the Novaya Zemlya is the only one Russia has now. Many experts believe, however, the continuation of nuclear tests there constitutes a serious threat to the ecology of near Arctic regions.

Bill Granting Citizens Free Movement Considered

LD1506222292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1805 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow June 15 TASS—A bill granting citizens the right to free movement, to choose a place of residence within the borders of the Russian Federation [RF], is under preparation in the Supreme Soviet. A draft of the bill was considered today during its session by the presidium of the republic's parliament.

In order to compile demographic data and the bill obliges to register their place of permanent and temporary residences, if it exceeds three months. The registration charges should not exceed the minimum wage in the republic. Citizens of the RF, who leave the republic, will have the right to free movement without special preferences. The draft bill is directed for consideration by the committee of the houses, and the appropriate committee is supposed to finalise the document.

In conformity with the decision of the presidium, the draft law on "the establishment of a transition period for the realization of territorial rehabilitation of repressed people" was submitted for consideration by the parliament. In connection with the changed fundamental rights of state rule in Russia after the signing of the Federation Treaty, a transition period of five years is proposed, during which necessary organizational measures are to be prepared and conducted.

The "War and Armed Forces' Veterans" draft law, considered by the presidium, will determine the status of war and armed forces' veterans, as well as a complex of special measures concerning additional social protection for these people.

The appropriate committee is entrusted to finalise the draft and submit it for the parliament's consideration.

Two Value-Added Tax Bills To Be Discussed

OW1506211492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1952 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Presidium of the Russian Parliament has decided to present for discussion in the RF [Russian Federation] Supreme Soviet two bills on the VAT [value added tax] tax.

One of them, drafted by the budget commission, provides for cutting the VAT by half, from 28% to 14% and those on foodstuffs and children's goods to 7%. Simultaneously, the bill suggests lifting the VAT altogether from research and development financed by the budget or special research funds.

The speaker of the Russian Parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov, said that "Five minutes before the President met in session, there arrived a bill on the same subject from the Russian President."

The deputy speaker of the Russian parliament, Yuri Voninin has said that the presidential draft suggests leaving the current 28 percent VAT unchanged and setting the VAT on foodstuffs at 15%.

Regional Affairs

North Ossetia Wants 'More Decisive' Russia

LD1606173192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1648 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Vladikavkaz June 16 TASS—In response to Russian Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov's statement on Monday [15 June] warning that the Russian Parliament may have to consider South Ossetia's official appeal for integration with the Russian Federation, North Ossetian Prime Minister Sergey Khetagurov said Russia should take more decisive measures to stop the fratricidal war.

Khasbulatov said the conflict in South Ossetia can no longer "be regarded as Georgia's own internal affair. It directly affects Russia's state interests."

"If no measures are taken, the Russian Parliament and the Russian leadership will discredit themselves to some extent in the eyes of our people," Khetagurov said.

"We constantly feel Russia's assistance in solving political and humanitarian problems. People and the leadership of North Ossetia accept this assistance with gratitude," Khetagurov said.

Khetagurov said North Ossetia has requested Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev to provide helicopters to transport wounded people.

Ossetian Refugees Increase; Aid Promised

LD1606135392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 15 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to data available on 14 June, the number of refugees from South Ossetia has reached 100,000. The Russian government made a decision today to render assistance to North Ossetia to the sum of 200 million rubles and to set up refugee reception centers on its territory.

Mountain Peoples Plan Meeting With Opposition

MK1606154592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jun 92 p 3

[NEGA report under the "News in Brief" rubric: "North Ossetia"]

[Text] Musa Shanibov, president of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus [CMPC], arrived in Vladikavkaz 13 June with a platoon of the CMPC's Abkhazian battalion.

Commenting on the action, Shanibov said that if the presence of CMPC soldiers in South Ossetia does not stop Georgia and the battalion suffers casualties, Georgia will automatically find itself at war with the entire Caucasus.

During his meeting with Akhsarbek Galazov, chairman of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet, M. Shanibov did not receive permission to take the CMPC platoon through North Ossetian territory. (As you know, Torez Kulumbekov, chairman of the South Ossetian Supreme Soviet, has also objected to the presence of CMPC troops in Tskhinvali.)

After Shanibov's talks with the North Ossetian leadership it was decided by 15 June to take the platoon to Nalchik, where it is to remain in barracks.

Shanibov said that the North Ossetian leadership has had talks with Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani. The latter sharply objected to the presence of CMPC troops in Tskhinvali and said that he is willing to go to Gori and personally monitor the development of the situation in order to prevent this.

Russian Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Barannikov also asked them to refrain from bringing CMPC troops into Tskhinvali.

Leader Warns Moscow

OW1406164992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1544 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus Musa Shanibov said "Russia's drive for good relations with Georgia to the detriment of the Ossetian issue is fraught with the loss of the Northern Caucasus and a new Russo-Caucasian war". "Russia must realise that Georgia will never be part of its empire", he told IF [INTERFAX] correspondent.

Shanibov called on Russia to beware of the dire implications of dilly-dallying in the area of fighting between Ossetians and Georgians, now seen little short of betrayal of the ethnic groups living in Russia's south.

He said Confederation leaders had so far delayed the sending of a first group of unarmed irregulars, now in Vladikavkaz, to Tskhinvali region. However, Shanibov warned that the Confederaion would move three of its battalions in the event of further fighting adding it was capable of finding both the weapons and army experts needed.

Chechenia on Russia's 'Imperialist' Policy

OW1606172192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Khasbulatov's statement is a logical link in the so-called Caucasian policy of the Russian government

and shows that it has imperialist ambitions", said the Minister of Information and Press of the Chechen republic Movladi Udugov in an interview with journalists in Groznyy. Udugov was commenting on a statement issued by the Chairman of the Russian Parliament on the events in South Ossetia. Khasbulatov said Monday [15 June] that the Russian Parliament may consider addressing South Ossetia concerning its union with Russia when certain Georgian political figures moved to force the South Ossetians from their historical homeland.

Udugov said "the statement sheds some light on the causes of the military revolt in Tbilisi, the beginning of the division of Georgia which has been stripped of its constitutional administration and is unable to stand up to the threat of Russia". He said: "Russia's salvation lies in the restoration of the constitutional system and the return of Georgia's legally elected president".

Udugov said that the Russian law on the formation of the Ingushetian republic is not the answer to Ingushetia's problems.

The minister also expressed concern over the continued, as he said, concentration of Russian military equipment and forces at the Chechen border.

Checheniya Begins Draft of Soldiers for Army

LD1706093892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] The first draft of soldiers into the national regular army has started in the Chechen Republic. Five military camps inherited from the former Soviet Army garrison form the material base of the republic's armed forces. This has been stated by Shakhabov, chief of staff of the Checheniya Armed Forces. More than 300 draftees were taken into the ranks amid the acute struggle.

Incidentally, Checheniya plans to have a motor rifle division as well as an anti-aircraft division, an air regiment, and a tank unit.

Sobchak Interviewed on St. Petersburg Woes

LD1506190192

[Editorial report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1150 GMT on 13 June broadcasts in its "To Stop and Look Back" program a 45-minute interview with St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak by correspondent Bella Kurkova.

Opening the interview, Kurkova asks Sobchak about his first year in office, noting that public opinion of him has changed. Sobchak replies that this is due to people's inability to be objective as their living standards deteriorate, and to their natural disappointment that things have not improved overnight. Sobchak blames the lack of improvement on the lack of a ready infrastructure. Recruitment of talented, like-minded people has not always been possible. Some posts are still unfilled. He believes St. Petersburg has too many deputies with ill-defined functions who hinder work and interfere in one another's duties.

Sobchak rejects a suggestion from Kurkova that there are too many former communists in the city power structures, and says he prefers to judge people by their work rather than by their past. He cites the rise of Khizha as a case in point.

Kurkova then suggests that Sobchak might follow the example of Moscow Mayor Popov and resign to become a representative at the United Nations, "because you are frequently accused of spending a great deal of time abroad." Sobchak replies: "I do not spend as much time abroad as I need to get things done, or as I would like to."

Sobchak then discusses the case of Vladimir Aleksandrovich Gusev, former director of the Russian Museum. "Because of a law, made with noble intentions but is being stupidly implemented, which says that a staff member in the state administration cannot work anywhere else and combine jobs, neither in a political organization, nor in any other organization, even in culture, I have lost one of the best committee chairmen, because the procuracy exasperated me for six months until there was the threat of a 10,000 ruble fine for that same Gusev. Then he told me: You know Anatoliy Aleksandrovich, I have to leave for my museum, into the creation and maintenance of which I have put so much effort. I am choosing the museum. And it is just the same with Gavriil Kharitonovich Popov, you see." Popov was exasperated by the same law.

Asked by Kurkova whether someone elected by the people should choose the job they were elected to do, Sobchak replies: "Let us not make choices for other people. Every person should make his own decision."

Sobchak continues: "As far as Gavriil Kharitonovich Popov is concerned, the solution of this issue was discussed at the political council of the Russian movement of democratic reform. And there it was decided to recommend that he should head that movement. And you never know, perhaps with time even you will recognize that this was a wise, far-sighted step, because we have ahead of us both the adoption of a new constitution, and elections, and the coming into being of a multiparty political system. And perhaps here Gavriil Kharitonovich will turn out to be precisely that political leader who can promote the consolidation—or rather the creation—of a genuinely democratic system, a genuinely democratic system in Russia. I would not hasten to condemn, especially when the choice is made under coercion, when essentially there is no choice.

"Then, to be honest, Moscow is a city where there are too many authorities, too many levels of authorities, too many decisions which are taken independently of the mayor, let's say. And in the final count, the person who is accountable for it is the mayor himself. So, I would not condemn Gavriil Kharitonovich for making such a decision."

Sobchak adds he will remain in office until his voters decide otherwise, or until his term of office comes to an end.

Sobchak says that his many trips abroad are motivated by the desire to stave off food shortages by securing overseas aid. "I must say about St. Petersburg—I think the same was true for Moscow and other major cities—that if we had not received that large-scale food aid from the EC countries and the United States, we would really have been on the brink of famine. You see, at the end of December and the beginning of January the city was practically cut off from supplies. The city ceased to receive supplies. Our main food suppliers—Ukraine, the Baltic states, Moldova, stopped providing supplies. We no longer received any imports."

Sobchak continues: "It turns out that over the last 20 years or more, the Russian economy developed by obtaining foodstuffs from the Ukraine and the Baltic states, at the expense of other republics. But today Russia itself has an absolute shortage of foodstuffs. This means that if we do not change the situation we will again put the people on the brink of famine."

In conclusion, Sobchak says people should remember August 1991 and what followed, and consider the appalling legacy, particularly in the economy, present leaders are having to contend with. He stresses that the people want democracy and that he, Sobchak, is and will remain an optimist.

Sobchak Outlines 'Strategy of Survival'

LD1506175692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1514 GMT 12 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent John Polishchuk]

[Text] St. Petersburg June 12 TASS—Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak is sure Petersburg will play the role of testing ground to elaborate economic structures and later spread them throughout Russia.

In a ST. PETERSBURG GAZETTE interview today Sobchak dwelt on economic problems, methods of their solution on the Petersburg and republican scales.

The mayor confirmed the strategy of survival was a priority in the set of measures Sobchak, the leader of major Petersburg transformations, tried to implement in 1992. He said there were certain grounds to speak about hunger threat in town last winter. Thus, he had to turn to the West for a large-scale economic assistance as the Soviet Union disintegrated and economic relations were broken.

In his opinion, the system of food distribution in St. Petersburg was functioning normally, which was confirmed by a commission from the European communities that worked in the city.

"In view of economic difficulties to arise due to the announced reform program, we managed to accumulate considerable means by the end of 1991. Over one billion roubles were spent between January and May for social protection of the population. A similar amount is planned to be spent by the end of this year," said Sobchak.

The Petersburg mayor pointed out to mistakes made in the reform tactics that could be avoided. The first one is the use of price liberalization as the major reform instrument under conditions of the state-monopolized economy. The second one is in insufficient account of the time factor when conducting the reforms. The government should have done better balanced, more careful and stretched in time steps to free the prices.

Sobchak confirmed the opinion economic transformations affected a number of city projects, including that on the development of Petersburg as a free economic zone. However, the idea to make it remains and projects to create free customs zones in the sea port, the airport and several other areas of the city and the Petersburg region have been elaborated.

The mayor told the newspaper about other projects to provide for new working places.

A key aspect of the Petersburg economic development is the fate of the military-industrial complex, which occupies the two thirds of the Petersburg enterprises. Sobchak pins great hopes on the work of the regional council on conversion and possibilities of former military plants to produce consumer goods.

He said structural changes in the economy at the expense of privatization and curtailing of the state sector, encouragement of private enterprise and foreign investments in the city economy are needed to provide for success.

The Petersburg official expressed the assurance there are possibilities to introduce certain corrections in the economic reforms, stop the price rise and provide for their better balanced holding in the interests of the population.

In order to make it, the so-called privatization money should be paid to each Russian resident, believes Sobchak. The right of each Russian resident to a land lot for building a house and develop gardening should be immediately recognized. A land lot of six hundredth parts of a hectare in size should be granted to everyone for free.

These measures will help to turn each Russian resident into owner and provide for his or her real participation in Russian transformation processes.

Sobchak also called for immediate strict control over the cost price, the profitability and prices of state enterprises, as well as rational use of credits, reorganization of the banking system and emergency measures to elaborate a state policy in culture, education and science. These spheres are now rapidly degrading, the Petersburg mayor believes.

Leningrad Oblast Resists Sobchak's Control

LD1506181992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Summary] Leningrad Oblast soviet has declared that it will resolutely counteract any attempts by Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak to take Leningrad Oblast under his control. A similar decision was made by the St. Petersburg city soviet some days before.

Russia's Radio correspondent Denis Gurinskiy says both declarations were prompted by President Yeltsin's draft decree investing the mayor of St. Petersburg with extraordinary powers for the transitional period, which they believe to be unconstitutional. Sobchak denies any connection with the draft or, indeed, the authenticity of the document. He admits, however, that he did suggest to Yeltsin that the 50km zone around St. Petersburg should be transferred from the jurisdiction of the oblast authorities to his own, in order to speed up the reforms in local agriculture.

Sobchak Explains Military Buildup in Northwest

OW1106222992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1831 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The concentration of forces in the region was not the result of military, but rather economic reasons, St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak said in a meeting with Finnish journalists Thursday [11 June]. The Finnish guests were concerned over the constant build-up of military units in the North-West region in connection with the withdrawal of forces from Germany and the Baltic states.

Sobchak said that Russia can now reduce the army by 1.5 million troops, but it cannot provide unemployed officers with housing and work in Russia.

Shortlived St. Petersburg Strike Viewed

OW1606223792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Trolley and tram drivers in St. Petersburg went on strike Tuesday [16 June] at 14:00. As expected, the city officials did not consider it possible to meet their demands for pay raises.

The city administration offered a compromise—increase salaries by 80% from June 1 for two months until the law on indexing takes effect. In June and July tram and trolley drivers will be paid one thousand rubles from the municipal social welfare fund.

The strikers agreed to the offer and signed a protocol.

In addition the St. Petersburg city council is against the strike. At a press conference its director Aleksandr Belaev said that the transportation workers are not the worst off: their salaries are 60% higher than the average salary in the city.

Party Property Divided in St. Petersburg

OW1606223592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The authorities of St. Petersburg and the surrounding district developed a program to divide the property of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union between the city and the district based on the number of party members in the district and city organizations as of August 1991, officials said at a press conference in St. Petersburg.

Prior to the August Coup there were 431 thousand communists in the city and 94 thousand in the district. Based on these figures the city should receive 8 million rubles worth of property (prices based on the cost at time of construction), while the district will receive 6.5 million rubles in property. Property in the amount of 56 million rubles will be given to the city and district together.

The plan will be submitted at a joint session of the city and district council Wednesday [17 June].

Officials said at the press conference that the current communist party, which claims to be the ideological heir, will receive none of the property of the former Communist Party of the Soviet Union. However, if the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is rehabilitated its property will be returned.

Communist Party funds were used to build 12 structures in St. Petersburg and 25 in the Leningrad district.

St Petersburg Counterterrorist Unit Viewed

924C1669A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No 24, 10 Jun 92 p 2

[Interview with Aleksandr Kuznetsov, chief of the counterterrorist service in St. Petersburg, by Tatyana Putrenko, LITERATURNAYA GAZETA correspondent, in St. Petersburg; date not given: "Dangerous Poverty: Terrorist Act at Moscow Railroad Station Is Just the Beginning"]

[Text] [Putrenko] Aleksandr Valentinovich, what main tasks have been assigned to you?

[Kuznetsov] One of the main tasks is to counter international terrorism. Naturally, we will cooperate with the special services of other countries. The fight against "black market" weapons, including nuclear weapons, is also within our jurisdiction. And, of course, the prevention of crimes with respect to persons in government service.

[Putrenko] A lot is being said and written now about the merging of political processes with criminal...

[Kuznetsov] Such an interweaving does exist. On the one hand, mafia structures are attempting to influence political processes to effect their development in directions that are necessary to them. On the other hand, certain politicians are more and more frequently using criminal structures to finance (sponsor) their political activity and reprisals against political opponents. I am also seriously troubled by something else. According to our data, a number of political groups in St. Petersburg (I will even be so bold as to say parties and movements) are starting to form their own armed detachments—and not only for security but also for the execution of specific terrorist tasks with respect to their political opponents. Such "militants" are being established not only by those whom it is usual to call rightist, but also by certain leftist radical organizations. I consider it to be a temporary fact that these "militants" have not yet shown themselves.

[Putrenko] But do you not fear accusations that your service will be engaged, as in the old days, in reprisals against dissidents?

[Kuznetsov] I signed a contract, and I work in the special service of a legally elected authority, and this means that my task is to operate within the scope of the law that has been approved by this authority. In the event of a disagreement with the political powers that be I have the right to resign. But we will never become a "watchdog" that is ready to act at any command.

[Putrenko] But, nonetheless, are the new democratic authorities trying to bring any pressure on you?

[Kuznetsov] We do not feel any direct pressure. There is something else—numerous legally ignorant demands from deputies: "Take urgent measures! Ban the newspaper, rally, telecast..." This is not our business. But, for example, if we receive information through our channels that a bomb will explode at some rally, then we will go into immediate action.

[Putrenko] What is your forecast for the immediate future?

[Kuznetsov] Our economic difficulties traditionally compel us to look for the guilty party. Who is to blame? Well, he who is in the public eye today: the politician, the deputy...In addition, intensification of the crime-conducive situation in the country has led to the emergence of a certain type of people on the political horizon. For them, moral-ethical considerations have receded into the background. To blow up a house filled with people, or an automobile, just to announce a political organization—until now we only read about this in books on the life of Latin American guerrillas. I am confident that we will actually soon see this here. Our poverty affects everything. For example, recently there have been cases of our hired assassins being used in other countries. Just because they come cheap...

St. Petersburg Press for 12 Jun Reviewed

LD1306130292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1010 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Review of St. Petersburg Press—TASS headline]

[Text] St. Petersburg June 12 TASS—The German firm Matsur Music has signed a contract with a St. Petersburg-based recording firm, the newspaper SMENA reported. The firm, which is also concerned with recordings, studies demand for musical products in various regions. Neither is it above buying products of bankrupt companies. Managers of the firm, well-known patrons of art in Germany, have now gained popularity in St. Petersburg. Matsur Music is the first foreign member of a club uniting patrons of art of this city.

Thieves who broke into a flat of an employee of the Hermitage Museum stole a rich collection of antiques, newspaper VECHERNIY PETERSBURG reported. Its owner gathered the unique collection for many years. Among stolen items are a sword with a brass handle of a cavalry officer (1856), coins dating from the 18th-19th centuries, a decorated Buddhist bell (18th century), a bronze statuette of Buddha, a stone statuette of Japanese Buddha, a silver icon case. Incidentally, the flat was rented to a man whom the owner barely knew.

The ecological situation in the city remains complex, NEVSKOYE VREMYA reported. Every year the city produces some 800,000 [no unit of measure as received] household waste and approximately 200,000 tonnes of industrial waste, having third and fourth degrees of danger.

All garbage is dumped at three sites. The only waste-disposal plan can handle 15 per cent of the total amount. Industrial enterprises, thermal electrical stations and motor vehicles are the main sources of pollution. Last year alone they accounted for more than 407,000 tons [as received] of toxic agents, the estimated damage from pollution is 6.3 billion rubles.

The Russian college, called Northern Star, was set up in St. Petersburg. It has only one experimental class, the newspaper NEVSKYE VEDOMOSTIY reported. The college trains specialists for the commercial sector. The education process is geared to the needs of the Russian fund for the development of enterprise and is controlled by its leaders. It currently has 40 students, made up mainly of young male residents of St. Petersburg. They live at their homes, receive a monthly stipend of 500 rubles and free meals.

Arkhangelsk Factories Halt Due to Fuel Shortage

LD1406195492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Jun 92

[L. Lapushina video report from Arkhangelsk; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The reception area of the CIS's largest enterprise for repairing nuclear submarines is empty today. A similar scene is expected for the rest of the week. Almost all of the major enterprises here are at a standstill because of a lack of electricity and heating. [video shows port at a standstill, street scenes, gasoline station closed due to lack of fuel]

The Polyarnaya Zvezda instrument-making factory is also expected to come to a standstill. The monsters of the defense industry are idle. Children's institutions in the town are not working for the same reason. The town is paralyzed.

The Navy—the customer of these enormous factories—owes 300 million rubles. The personnel of the Northern Fleet have still not received wages for February. The factories have nothing with which to pay wages, and there are no funds to pay for a new consignment of fuel oil. There is a shortage of gasoline in the town.

Arkhenergiya is planning to go on strike. It is possible that the Ministry of Defense will have to introduce monetary certificates in the near future.

Chelyabinsk Enterprise To Destroy Hardware

LD1506210692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0302 GMT 14 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Tkachenko]

[Text] Chelyabinsk, 14 Jun—"We are ready to break up military equipment, and we are ready to adapt our equipment for this," Lev Zhizmor, director of the Chelyabinsk Vtorchermet association, has announced in the local press. And these are not empty words. In the last few days alone the enterprise has started breaking up a powerful tank and begun to break up military aircraft. By agreement with the local military aviation command navigation school, 23 excess planes will be handed over to the metal-breakers.

Vladivostok Living Expenses Highest in Country

OW1706094592 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Service in Russian 0715 GMT 17 Jun 92

[From the "Pacific Ocean" program]

[Text] Today Vladivostok was named the most expensive city in Russia. A resident requires more than 2,500 rubles for minimal living wages, and no future change is visible.

Development of Vladivostok Economy Discussed

OW1106120192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0600 GMT 10 Jun 92

[G. Medvedeva video report; from the "Dalniy Vostok" program]

[Text] I would not underestimate the degree of destructive influence of corrupt and incompetent bureaucrats on the development of international cooperation. It is quite possible that it is profitable for someone that, to this day, we still do not have any laws, or guarantees for the development of international business. It is possible that I am incorrect, and the whole matter is just due to a lack of experience and the complexity of the transitional period; however, facts are stubborn things. There is more talk than action in the field of cooperation with the West, and so, many projects are destined to remain only on paper. [video shows a meeting between Japanese and Russian delegations]

[Begin recording] [Medvedeva] A delegation from Japan has arrived in the Maritime Kray to study the development of our city. It includes a group that developed this project, experts from the (Egfa) Institute who are consulting engineers; that is, provide consulting services and research, and representatives of the largest Japanese companies, such as Marubeni, Mitsui, Mitsubishi, and the leading banks from the Land of the Rising Sun.

The members of the delegation were received by Valeriy Konstantinovich Ruzovoy, deputy head of the Kray administration. A substantive and interesting talk took place on the problems for the establishment of a free economic zone in the Maritime Kray. Our guests were interested no less than we in making the Bolshoy Vladivostok project a reality, and have already completed a large part of their work. The association of companies has already conducted preinvestment studies for the creation of the free economic zone in our Kray. Our guests are ready to participate in the drawing up of the final step for its formation—to stimulate foreign investment.

However, the matter is being hampered by our side. Yeltsin's decree on the creation of the free economic zone in the Maritime Kray was examined by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation's Commission for International Affairs and Economic Cooperation and the Commission for Economic Reform. The members of parliament arrived at the conclusion that it needs serious elaboration, and that too, requires time. And, of course, the Japanese businessmen are becoming wary of the changeable situation in our economy, the instability of our social and political life, uncertainty in the existing status of the Development of Vladivostok Study Group, and the lack of an infrastructure. Therefore, the realization of the Bolshoy Vladivostok project, meanwhile, is big question mark. [end recording]

Far Eastern Exchanges To Trade in Polimetals

LD1606193292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1515 GMT 16 Jun 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Vladivostok—On June 16, a conference to organize an exchange trade in tin, lead, zinc, other polimetals

and gold and silver concentrates has been held at Vladivostok. The conference of the captains of the mining industry of the Republic of Sakha, Magadan region and Primorye (Maritime) territory was held on the initiative of Vladivostok and Magadan Mercantile-Raw Materials Exchanges [VMRME]. It was proposed to deal in polimetals on the terms of futures or forwards, which, the exchange analysts maintain, may not only attract additional investments to the mining industry but make insurance and crediting of transactions more favorable.

According to the VMRME manager for external economic relations Nikolay Kharitonov, in the advanced countries up to 5-7 percent of all the volumes of raw materials mined are sold through exchanges which in their turn determine the level of prices for the rest of the mining raw materials.

Objections to Far East Recruitment Viewed

OW1606075792 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Service in Russian 0715 GMT 13 Jun 92

[From the "Pacific Ocean" program]

[Text] And now about army matters. Journalist Sergey Chumakov has visited a garrison in the Far East Military District. This report was filed after his journey.

[Chumakov] The army is waiting to change to professional status. This is a good thing. But judging by the situation in the country, it could be problematical. The numbers of officers and warrant officers can be reduced, but where do we get soldiers and sailors, when even today, from [words indistinct], only 28 are called up. There is not only a chronic shortage of people in the service, but also in the number needed to maintain basic troop strength. The decree on discharges from the service and on waiving drafting of students has also caused significant shortages in army ranks. Now, each subunit is making increasingly helpless gestures, to put it mildly, and express their bewilderment. Listen to my conversation with a group of officers from a combined guards unit, Captain Auzhe, Senior Lieutenant Starovoytov, and Captain Mart.

[Begin video recording] [First unidentified officer] At present, they are signing up with national armies, and students are not being taken into the army. Everyone is dying to get into an institute. I of course think that the army is a good thing, but it is better to be in it part time. Maybe someone will contradict me. But let us assume that one young man might be accepted at an institute because he can pay, while another has the knowledge but no financial support and thus is not admitted. So we have unequal youth in our society. Some serve, and others do not. Yet, one is no better than the other, even when comparing mental and physical development.

[Second unidentified officer] In 1983, there were about three people from higher educational establishments in the battery, some who had finished three courses, some who had completed their studies, and some who had attended technical college. One or two were quite inveterate [words indistinct]. But in reality, it turned out that [words indistinct] assimilated much more quickly than some of the specialists from higher educational establishments.

In my opinion, this law waiving student drafting is unjustified in reality or in practice. [Words indistinct] they are given theory, and maybe they will fire some automatic weapons. So, how can he accredited as a specialist in [word indistinct] if he has never actually seen it? He will see it during practical lessons and will be shown how it all happens while he sits at a desk. Maybe they will show it to him in a model, but he will not actually sit in the machine, and he [word indistinct]. Even if he sits in it then [words indistinct]. This is said about [words indistinct], so what can be said about a tank crewman when he sits in as a driver, with all those buttons, keys, and toggles? Although he was completing his studies at the institute, he was still a fish out of water, even though he was supposed to be a motorized infantry specialist. He was employed as a [word indistinct], he fired automatic weapons; that is the only way he can learn. [end video recording]

National Affairs

Demonstration Outside Supreme Soviet Noted

LD1606175892 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Report from Kiev by correspondent Vladimir Sokolov]

[Excerpts] The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet resumed its session in Kiev today. The deputies, however, had to go to the session accompanied by the following: [begin recording of crowd chanting] We demand a regional allowance for Donbass! [end recording]

[Sokolov] The Supreme Soviet building is surrounded by several sizeable pickets at once. They include envoys from Donbass with their economic demands, mainly that the necessary funds should be allocated in the budget for Donbass, Rukh representatives who continue campaigning for the resignation of Vitold Fokin's government, and finally, teachers, medics, and motorists from many cities. The slogans carried by the pickets differ accordingly. Here are some of the Rukh slogans: Down with the Fokin government!; Ukraine should have a government of popular trust!; A new law on elections—now!.

The slogans raised above the messengers from the region of miners and metallurgists [Donbass] are more balanced: Taxes should be used for Donbass' stabilization!; Donbass should be declared an ecological disaster zone!; and finally: Parliament of Ukraine, do not hamper but help the government to solve problems! [passage omitted]

The Supreme Soviet has instructed its leaders and those of the government to meet with the Donbass representatives and to discuss with them ways of solving the problems that have arisen. The results should be reported at today's session. This meeting has taken place but its results, unfortunately, have not yet been made public.

Today the Supreme Soviet adopted a law on Ukraine's natural reserves and amendments and addendums to the law on entrepreneurship. However, it failed to give a second reading to the law on associations of citizens, that is, the basis of a multiparty system.

Fifth Supreme Soviet Session Resumes 16 Jun

LD1606230192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Video report by V.Lyaskalo; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Ukraine's Supreme Soviet resumed work today. Among the issues on the agenda is a main republican draft law—the budget for this year. However, the session began its work in unusual conditions: A sorrowful minute of silence in memory of miners who have died—that is how the regular plenary session of the fifth session of Ukraine's Supreme Soviet began today. This fifth session today has its beginnings back in January and the end is already close, and to judge from everything, it will be stormy and very tense because in 11 days it is necessary to consider another 55 issues, according to the plan, and among them are such important ones as endorsing the budget for the current year and discussion of the draft new Constitution. [video shows proceedings inside parliament, deputies standing for one minute of silence, then seated, debating]

Therefore from now until the end of the session this square in front of parliament will scarcely be empty. So today, too, a many-thousand-strong well organized and very representative landing force [desant] from Donbass alighted here. [passage omitted] [video shows views of massive picketing/demonstration in the square; banners and placards, including those of the Donbass people, and masses of blue and yellow flags; one placard reads: Give the Government to the People!; a second reads: Put Fokin's Government on Trial; an Odessa Rukh placard is also shown]

Socialist Party Holds Constituent Congress

LD1706091892 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Report by station correspondent Natalya Bondarchuk]

[Excerpts] The first All-Ukrainian conference of the Socialist Party of Ukraine opened in Kiev yesterday. Let us listen to what our correspondent Natalya Bondarchuk has to say.

[Bondarchuk] Four hundred and five delegates from all regions of Ukraine were selected for the first All-Ukrainian conference. One hundred guests were invited. Among them were representatives of the Working People of Russia, the Union of Communists of Moscow, the Socialist Peasants Party of Belorussia, and others. Oleksander Moroz, head of the Socialist Party of Ukraine Political Council, declared the conference open. [passage omitted]

The principal issue on the agenda on the first day of the conference's work was the subject of Oleksander Moroz' speech entitled: The socioeconomic and political situation in Ukraine and tasks of the Socialist Party of Ukraine. The Socialist Party came to its first All-Ukrainian conference with a packet of documents. The most important among them may be considered the program of extraordinary measures for stabilizing the situation and extricating Ukraine from the crisis. Here are some principles from the program:

[Begin Moroz recording] We are putting forward the concept of three stages of economic reform. The first of these is to stop the breakup of the economy. This is an extraordinary period lasting 6 or 10 months. Then there is renewal of production, and here there are various ideas, but experts are advising approximately 3 years,

and reforming and a further structural reconstruction of the economy to enable us to adopt a normal work rhythm following a social reorientation of the economy.

The extraordinary period of the program you have received—and you may submit proposals regarding its content—envisages the use of state mechanisms and the strengthening of all elements of the executive power. This is quite a rigid approach. It envisages the intervention of the state, and only the state, in the prices and wages policy and in the sphere of distribution. It strengthens the control functions of the state and of working people throughout areas of production and distribution, up to and including the introduction of a rationing system.

Without doubt these are unpopular measures. For the purpose of propaganda they could be used against the party, but we are proceeding from reality. It does not leave any hope for a more delicate way out of the crisis situation. [end recording]

Moldova

Proposal on Dniester Submitted to Parliament

OW1606143492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chairman of the joint commission Victor Pushkash submitted to Moldova's parliament on Monday [15 June] a conception of settling the armed conflict in the Dniester area. That includes an immediate separation of the warring sides, disbandment of illegal armed units, dissolution of the left bank's administration, and holding elections there at all levels. The joint commission calls for talks with Russia on handing the 14th Army over to Moldova's jurisdiction.

In his turn, Moldova's Security Minister Anatol Plugaru told the parliament's session that Russia is helping the Dniester area. He said he had information that the 14th Army is not going to leave Moldova's territory, but on the contrary, is strengthening its positions.

Earlier a report on the current situation in the conflict zone had been given by Moldova's Defence Minister Ion Costas who said the Moldovan parliament's decision on a ceasefire is being observed by only one side—Moldova's Ministry of Defence.

Dniester Parliament Statement on Federation

LD1606172292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1656 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, June 16 TASS—The territorial integrity of Moldova can be preserved only on a federative basis. The autonomous status proposed by Moldovan authorities does not suit the Dniester parliament, according to a statement of the Presidium of the Dniester parliament received by TASS on Tuesday [16 June].

Moldovan parliamentarians from the Dniester region failed to convince the republican parliament to cease military activities in the region, to unconditionally disengage armed units and include the issue of a federative treaty between Moldova and the Dniester Republic into the agenda of the parliamentary session, the document said.

The Moldovan parliament showed its unreadiness to settle the conflict by peaceful means, without the policy of dictate and without imposing the Moldovan laws and structures of power on the people from the left bank of the Dniester, the statement said.

The decision adopted by the session cannot facilitate an end to the bloodshed, as it envisages the functioning of Moldovan bodies of authority in the Dniester region as a precondition for disengaging armed units, the statement said.

The Dniester parliamentarians are also against disarming their guardsmen which is inadmissible for the safety of the population.

Moldovan demand to withdraw the 14th Army from the Dniester region do not promote the normalisation of the situation either, the statement said.

Leader Offers Compromise

LD1706084292 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] The leader of the Dniester Republic, Igor Smirnov, has said that the republic will uphold its independence, proclaimed at a referendum, but in the interests of a peaceful solution of the conflict the government of the republic is ready to make compromises and suggests having a federation on the territory of Moldova. The residents of the Trans-Dniester region—the Russians, Ukrainians and Moldovans—fear that Modlova will join Romania.

The government of the Dniester Republic is ready to consider any initiative aimed at ending hostilities. The parliament of Moldova, on its part, took a decision on Tuesday [16 June] on the principles of settling the conflict. The document provides for a disengagement of the conflicting sides and also disarming and disbanding the armed groups.

Moldovan Accord on Dniester Conflict Detailed

AU1606210992 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Nicolae Dumitru report from Chisinau]

[Text] The Moldovan parliament passed, with 215 votes for and four abstentions, the accord on the basic principles of peaceful settlement of the armed conflict, aimed at creating a climate of peace and understanding in the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova.

The deputies first voted on each of the 13 principles and then voted on the accord as a whole.

The principles are:

1. The establishment of an efficient monitor to observe the cease-fire agreement.

2. The disengagement of the parties to the conflict.

3. The disarmament and dissolution of the volunteer units and paramilitary groups and the dissolution of their organizational structures.

4. The cessation of mobilization and enrollment of citizens in the conflict or activities which would ensure its continuation.

5. The elaboration of the juridical statute of the eastern rayons of the republic in concordance with international

practice in this field, taking into consideration the historical circumstances under which the Dniester region was formed.

6. The transfer—on the principles of free will—of the Dniester guard units to subunits of the Republic of Moldova armed forces.

7. The re-establishment of the unique national economic system.

8. The return of the refugees to their former homes, ensuring their security, and compensation for lost property.

9. Organizing new free elections to elect representatives at all levels of the republic's administration, with participation of foreign election observers.

10. The creation of favorable circumstances which will allow for the proper functioning of local administrative bodies in the eastern rayons of the republic.

11. The establishment of a government of national concord.

12. The re-assertion of the position of the Moldovan parliament concerning the 14th Army. Here I would like to mention that parliament considers that force a foreign army, and that until its final withdrawal from Moldova that army should maintain full neutrality with respect to events on both banks of the Dniester.

13. Organizing joint investigation of the crimes committed by both parties; the condemnation of terrorist and diversionist acts; the freeing of hostages and prevention of further hostage actions; preventing the capture of military, communications, transportation equipment, weapons, and other materiel.

Taking the floor during the session, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, said that approval of the accord is a historic moment in this turning point of the republic. Parliament made one of its most equitable and responsible decisions, thus demonstrating that reason is able to triumph in Moldova, Snegur said.

Snegur Objects to 14th Army Jurisdiction

OW1606173792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Mircea Snegur objects to conducting any talks with Russia on transferring the 14th army under Moldova's jurisdiction. In his opinion the republic has enough armed forces of its own, and it would be senseless to waste its resources for sustaining this army.

Speaking in parliament on Tuesday [16 June], he pointed to an agreement with President Yeltsin as regards the withdrawal of the 14th army to Russia.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The proposal to initiate talks with Russia on placing the units of the 14th army under Moldova's jurisdiction was presented to parliament by the mixed quadripartite commission which had worked out a concept for settling the armed conflict in the Trans-Dniester Region. This concept, envisages immediate disengagement of the opposing armed formations, disbandment of illegal armed groups, dissolvement of all power structures in the Dniester Left Bank regions of Moldova and holding new elections of deputies there.

Snegur Cited on Economic Ties With CIS

OW1606173992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Mircea Snegur maintains that Moldova provides much better conditions for foreign capital investments than some neighboring countries.

Talking to journalists in Chisinau Monday [15 June] he averred that "Moldova resolutely refuses to play the role of a beggar at the gate of Western Eden since it possesses well developed agricultural production capabilities, as well as unique natural resources and a highly qualified labor force". In his words, among the republic's other priorities stands its geographical situation, for it lies in the cross-roads of the flows of goods heading from east to west and from north to south.

Under the conditions of crisis which has engulfed all the republics of the "former Empire", the Moldovan government, Mircea Snegur underlines, is seeking to find a compromise for a temporary coexistence of the traditional and new forms of economic management of the economic institutions and free market. Their forcible juxtaposition, in Mircea Snegur's opinion, "may lead to most undesirable consequences".

Muravschi Not Expected To Form New Government

OW1606174092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The INTERFAX correspondent has learned from reliable sources that Prime Minister Valeriu Muravschi will not be vested with the authority to form Moldova's new government, even though following his appeal for resignation President Snegur was inclined to trust him the post of the prime minister. The reason for the president's change of opinion is not revealed, whereas indirectly it is associated with charges of corruption of several cabinet members brought up by a special parliamentary commission.

Monday [15 June] night, Valeriu Muravschi left for the United States where he is planning to sign a trade and

economic agreement between Moldova and the USA. Press secretary of the Moldovan Government Ion Sofroni advised the Interfax correspondent that Mr Muravschi's itinerary in the US includes his meetings with US Secretary of State James Baker and some other officials, as well as signing of a number of documents on the countries' bilateral cooperation.

Guardsmen Reportedly Break Dniester Cease-Fire

LD1606150592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1418 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS—TASS]

[Text] Chisinau, June 16 TASS—Moldova observes the ceasefire in the Dniester region while local guardsmen have violated it a lot of times, Moldovan Defence Minister Ion Costas told the republican parliament on Tuesday [16 June].

Dniester guardsmen opened fire on Moldovan positions in the settlements of Cosnita and Cocieri last night, he said.

The minister added various types of arms are used by Dniester guardsmen, including mortars and grenade-launchers.

Moldovan police did not respond to the attacks, he said.

Costas and Moldovan Interior Minister Konstantin Antoch believe the break in hostilities in the region is used by the Dniester guardsmen to mobilise forces and prepare for an offensive.

'Localized' Clashes Continue

LD1606162792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 16 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Localized exchanges of fire and clashes are continuing in the Dniester region. Last night guards captured and reinforced new positions in the area of the Dubossary GES. According to preliminary data, six people were killed in fighting in the past 24 hours.

Two Guardsmen Killed

LD1606161692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1541 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, June 16 TASS—Two Dniester guardsmen, residents of the city of Rybnitsy, were killed on Monday [15 June] when automatic weapons and machine-guns were fired on the left bank of the Dniester in the area of Rogi village. The two are Nikolay Belov, the commander of the Emergency Volunteer Company, and Aleksandr Doliyan, a guardsman. Two Dniester residents were injured.

A spokesman in the press centre of the Dniester region's leadership told ITAR-TASS the positions of the defenders of the Dniester region in the Koshitsy direction were bombarded with mortars throughout the day on June 15. The environs of the city of Grigoriopol and Kitskany village also came under fire.

The Presidium of the Dniester parliament adopted a statement at its Monday session. The statement says a treaty on the federative state needs to be concluded to settle the conflict by peaceful means and keep Moldova as an integral state.

The central group of the mixed parliamentary commission met in Tiraspol on the same day to discuss the mechanism for ending the armed conflict.

Moldovan Ambassador on Republic's Problems

MK1606161092 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 16 Jun 92 p 5

[Interview with Ion Chebuk, Moldovan permanent representative in Russia, by Yelena Tarasova; place and date not given: "Two Banks, One Problem"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Tbilisi and Vilnius, Karabakh, South Ossetia... Moldova is in the same category. Ion Chebuk, Moldovan permanent representative in Russia, speaks about the situation in the republic and stated bitterly: Two banks, one problem.

[Tarasova] Ion Kondratyevich, the things that are happening on the fringes of the former empire now are terrible. Are they really objective and inevitable?

[Chebuk] I think that this is indeed so. Why has my Moldova been experiencing such a tragedy in the past two years? Simply because the former Center, or rather a present inmate of the Matrosskaya Tishina jail, namely Anatoliy Lukyanov, with the support of former Union parliamentary deputies, created the potential to destroy the republic from within.

After 1985 democratic processes began developing very rapidly in our country, but that did not suit the Center. How could Moldova be stopped? They chose a path that was doomed to fail: interethnic conflict. And they began to play the card of the "genocide of the Russian people."

The first move was conflict over the proclamation of Moldovan as the state language. But you will agree that if you live among a people you must respect their language and customs. There is a good proverb: "When in Rome..." That is basic! Especially since for decades it was said that the Moldovans were losing their language: official documents and instruction in higher educational institutions were exclusively in Russian. If you did not know Russian you were considered some kind of a numskull. But is it conceivable for, say, a French Government minister not to know French? But that is how it was in the Soviet Union: Even the republic's leaders had

misgivings about speaking Moldovan and sometimes spoke it worse than Russian.

[Tarasova] But perhaps it was this long sense of grievance that led to the other extreme: Now the Russian speakers in the republic have become second-class citizens, they have already been denied access to higher educational institutions and to some official posts, have they not?

[Chebuk] You know that the distinctive feature of Moldova is that there are very many mixed marriages in our country and at an everyday level the language problem ceased to exist long ago. Most of the Russians have Moldovan husbands or wives. What nationality are their children? As a rule, at home they speak both languages. The present confrontation under the banner of protecting the Russians is a transparently obvious ploy.

[Tarasova] But whose ploy? According to you, it was Lukyanov before the August putsch, but what about now?

[Chebuk] Now it is those destructive forces in Russia which have taken over from the former imperial Center. They have another slogan now: "No to the unification of Moldova and Romania!"

[Tarasova] Ion Kondratyevich, those fears are not groundless. The possibility and even the necessity of affiliation to Romania is being discussed both in your republic and in Romania. It is therefore quite feasible that in such a situation the Russian-speaking population will tend more toward Russia than Romania.

[Chebuk] One thing must be understood here: The Moldovan people have directed and continue to direct all their efforts toward acquiring independence from all other countries. The election program of our president, Mircea Snegur, was based on that very thing. The presidential election results demonstrate that Moldovans support that position in mutual relations with neighboring states. Over 100 countries, including Romania, by the way, have already recognized Moldova's sovereignty and independence, and the country is a UN member. It does not intend losing all that. Incidentally, the Law on the Referendum is confirmation that there will be no affiliation to any state until the republic's people express their will. Do you know who is first among the opponents of such a referendum? Deputies representing pro-Romanian forces in parliament. They are afraid that they will hear a categorical "no": The majority of the population cherish the independence that they have won and the republic's leadership will not permit sovereignty to be lost or Moldova dismembered.

[Tarasova] Is that why the conflict between the right and left banks of the Dniester developed? Why there in particular?

[Chebuk] It is an artificially created conflict. The following statistics alone show that: The bulk of the Russian-speaking population—75 percent—live on the right bank. The population structure of the Left Bank region is as follows: 25 percent Russian, 28 percent Ukrainian, a few percent representing other nationalities, and 41 percent Moldovan.

Of course, one can understand the demand for a federation when the people do not have their own statehood. But which of those peoples do not have their own country? Ukraine exists, so does Russia. But Moldova exists, too, and it is bizarre to create another Moldovan republic on its territory: How can you create one sovereign state on the territory of another sovereign state? This absurd demand violates all international norms! Everything is based on genocide being committed against the Russians in the Dniester region. There is genocide going on there, but this is primarily against Moldovans. The 20,000 refugees from the Left Bank confirm that fact.

[Tarasova] But it is not just the Russian-speaking population that wants federal status granted to the Dniester Moldovan Republic. What about the decision of the Left Bank Moldovans' congress? Even the Dniester politicians found their radicalism something of a surprise.

[Chebuk] What can you expect from people who vote with guns at their heads? They are living in conditions of threats and blackmail and are forced to make decisions which the Dniester region's leaders expect of them.

[Tarasova] Are you convinced that this is the case?

[Chebuk] Absolutely! This republic was created with the support of USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs troops. Is that really normal? When people know that their life and the lives of their families are in danger and that there is nowhere for them to go, desperation forces them to make the decisions that are expected of them. There have been quite a few occasions when dissenters have been tortured and killed.

[Tarasova] The other side in the conflict cites similar facts...

[Chebuk] People have simply been set against one another. I am sure that if the Left Bank leaders had not sensed the support of certain forces in Russia they would have acted differently.

Here is a very recent example: In front of our permanent mission a crowd of people gathered holding banners calling for the Left Bank region to be given financial help, and volunteers were recruited. No one thought that the unthinkable was happening: Moldova is a sovereign state and no one has the right to interfere in its internal affairs. All this makes you think that there are forces which stand to gain from an escalation of the conflict.

The position of Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy remains a mystery to me. We were together in the defense of the White House in August last year. He knows that the parliament of the Dniester Republic

supported the putsch, he knows who heads that parliament. Then recently in Rostov-na-Donu, Rutskoy stated that there should be less talk, more action, that is, he effectively incited the Dniester region leaders to irresponsible conduct.

[Tarasova] Do you equate Rutskoy's position on the Moldovan situation with that of B. Yeltsin?

[Chebuk] That is hard to say. But it is well known that our president has sent the Russian president three forthright telegrams and has received only silence in reply. Silence, as we know, betokens consent. Therefore I am convinced that the conflict is not dying out. One thing must be clearly understood: The problem is that all this is very difficult for Moldovans and for Russians alike. After all, every life wasted in senseless confrontation merely aggravates the tragedy.

A Russian boy will always remember that his father was killed by a Moldovan and old Moldovans will tell their grandchildren that they were orphaned by Russians. The politicians ought to remember that.

[Tarasova] In your view, what must be done to stop the bloodshed?

[Chebuk] The 14th Army must be withdrawn first.

[Tarasova] Do you think that this is possible? Those 14th Army units stationed on the right bank of the Dniester have already been switched to Moldovan jurisdiction and those officers who are on the left bank have stated, as is well known, that withdrawal can only relate to the army's banners and containers of documents.

[Chebuk] Moldova is a sovereign state with an inalienable right to its own armed forces. Order within the country must be ensured not by the army or Cossacks brought in for that purpose but by the law enforcement agencies. That is why the 14th Army must leave the republic.

I am sure that an important step toward settling the situation is the Republic of Moldova parliament's resolution of 11 June this year "On Measures To Resolve the Conflict in the Eastern Rayons of the Republic of Moldova": Dniester region deputies took part in adopting it. A mixed commission has been formed including representatives of armed formations which have become embroiled in the conflict. The commission has already begun work.

[Tarasova] Why do you think all the previous cease-fire agreements have not been fulfilled?

[Chebuk] Very many people have become embroiled in the conflict, they are deadlocked, but are afraid to back down because someone must bear responsibility for what has happened. But it is important to understand that a further deepening of the tragedy is senseless, ambitions must be cast aside, and all questions must be resolved by parliamentary means alone. Moldova has already taken the first steps in that direction, and it is very symbolic that it was the agrarian deputies in parliament who did that. They understand best of all that gardens must echo to the singing of birds and the buzzing of bees, not the whine of bullets, and that the fields must be furrowed by plows, not missiles. The agrarians managed to reach agreement. Admittedly, their mission has irritated politicians on both sides: Moldovan parliamentarians regard them as traitors, the Dniester side as "wolves in sheep's clothing." But the main thing is that dialogue has begun, and the most important thing now is to continue it. Ordinary people want to live as they have done for decades—together.

But this does not mean that the Dniester region, where many industrial enterprises are concentrated, cannot have a special status—a free economic zone, for example. No one will have the right to dismember a country which has finally acquired independence after so many years of having no rights at all.

Almost 18,000 Reported Without Employment

OW1606185292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The State Department of Employment of Moldova says that it registered about 18,000 people without permanent employment in the republic. A vast majority of those unemployed are not Moldovans. Unemployment allowances equal to a minimum wage are paid only to 384 people, 293 of whom are women. Some of the unemployed are specialists with higher education.

Kazakhstan

Tereshchenko in Oman on Official Visit

LD1606184192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1458 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Lebedev]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, June 16 TASS—Sultan Bin-Sa'id Qabus of Oman met with Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko on Tuesday [16 June] to discuss prospects for bilateral relations.

Tereshchenko is in Oman on an official visit as head of a Kazakh Governmental delegation.

Kazakhstan is seeking cooperation with Oman in developing its oil and gas fields through setting up joint ventures to prospect, develop and produce oil and gas in the republic.

Oman has mediated a deal between Kazakhstan and the U.S. company Chevron on joint development of oil deposits in Kazakhstan.

Parliament Studies Situation in Agriculture

OW1706105892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1026 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [17 June], the parliament of Kazakhstan took up agricultural problems. The parliamentary session is attended by president Nazarbayev.

Vice-Premier Baltash Tursumbayev described the situation in agriculture as critical. Last year, the grain crop amounted to 13.2 million tons—the lowest harvest over the past 15 years. Despite a dire shortage of hard currency, Kazakhstan reserved a sum for importing 1 million tons of grain, although in fact Kazakhstan needs 2.8 million tons of grain. The government is taking urgent measures to buy 500,000 more tons of grain, said Tursumbayev.

He also said that the state can no longer subsidize enterprises operating at a loss. He said, however, that if such enterprises are not supported the effect may be negative. In view of this, the government will extend to them a short-term loan worth 17 billion roubles.

Tursumbayev told parliament that from 1992 to 1995, 478 enterprises for processing agricultural produce will be built in Kazakhstan with foreign capital involved.

German-Kazakh Cooperation Council Meets in Bonn

LD1606202192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1727 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Semyenov]

[Text] Bonn, June 16 TASS—There are good chances for the development of economic cooperation between Germany and Kazakhstan. East-German firms display especially great interest in the cooperation, State Secretary of the German Ministry of the Economy Dieter von Wuerzen said, addressing a meeting of the German-Kazakh Council on Cooperation in Bonn on Tuesday. Participants in the meeting will hold talks regarding an agreement on mutual protection of investments.

According to the DPA news agency, the German side offered its consultative assistance to Kazakhstan in creating market structures. Besides, joint working groups have been set up for mineral resources and power industry, agriculture and processing of agricultural products, machine-building, development of infrastructure and means of communications.

Opposition Parties Demand Coalition Government

OW1606120892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1137 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During the talks with Kazakhstan's Vice-Premier Yerik Asanbayev, the leaders of the opposition parties demanded that a coalition government be shaped in Kazakhstan. On Monday [15 June], during a two-hour meeting, the leaders of the Zheltoksan (December) National-Democratic Party, of the Republican Party and of the Azat (Freedom) movement stressed that the government has exhausted the limit of national trust and that it no longer expresses the interests of society. They officially notified Vice-Premier Marat Dzholdazbekov who was present at the talks that on June 17 when the parliament of Kazakhstan opens its session, they will hold a meeting in front of the parliament building to demand the formation of a coalition government.

The opposition also insists that the 85 deputies who were elected by the communist party, the Young Communist League and public organizations resign.

Asanbayev said this was out of the question because the parliament had not yet adopted a law on recalling deputies. He noted that the question of a coalition government should be discussed in a constitutional way, in parliament. The demands for the government's resignation, he continued, are fanning tensions in society.

Unions Sign Agreement With Asian Trade Unions

LD1506180692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1447 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata, June 15 TASS—Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions and coordinator of this international organization for the Asian-Pacific Region

Debkumar Ganguliy ended his working visit to Kazakhstan. He was invited by the Kazakh Council of Trade Unions. As a result of negotiations both sides signed an agreement on the cooperation between the Kazakh trade unions and trade unions of the Asian continent.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Signs Manufacturing Industries Ruling

OW1606181592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Saparmurad Niyazov has signed a ruling on the priorities and dates for drawing the republic's plan for 1993-1995 aimed, in the first place, at developing manufacturing industries.

Other priorities include a stabilization in the republic's economy, encouragement to private enterprise and various forms of property, improvement of the finances and monetary circulation, and provision of food supply and consumer goods.

The main targets of the plan will be set by a special commission. The republic's plan will be drawn on the basis of regional programmes. Enterprises, large firms and other organisations are to submit their plans and guidelines to the city and district authorities by July 1. On this basis the cities and districts will draw their plans by July 10 and send them to the regional leadership and then to the capital Ashgabad.

The next stage of work on the republic's plan will be the analysis of the data by the planning ministry. By September 15 the generalized version will be handed over to the commission on Turkmenistan's plan of economic and social development. Next, the programmes modified and amended by the commission will be submitted to the government by October 1992.

The President's ruling points out that the plans should meet the need for "large-scale foreign investments".

Niyazov Grants Citizenship to 'Diaspora' Members

OW1606181792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the past two weeks S. Niyazov has signed a number of decrees granting citizenship to members of Turkmen diaspora abroad. According to the presidential commission on citizenship eight foreign citizens had been granted that by May 15—from Britain, Japan, three from Germany and another three from Turkey.

The commission's secretary and head of the citizenship and free pardon sector in the President's administration Nobat Kerbabayeva has told us that "the commission has scores more applications" on which a decision is pending due to the absence of citizenship law. The formal basis so far has been S. Niyazov's decree of 30 May, 1992 "On Social Rehabilitation and Citizenship of Turkmenistan".

Official Interviewed on Armed Forces, Defense

MK1606151592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jun 92 p 3

[Interview with Valeriy Otchertsov, member of Turkmen Presidential Council and deputy head of government, by Igor Zhukov under the "Turkmenia" rubric; place and date not given: ""Turkmen Army Under Joint Command Will Defend Russia's Interests on Southern Borders,' Valeriy Otchertsov, Member of Turkmen Presidential Council and Deputy Head of Government, Thinks"]

[Text] [Zhukov] The protocol signed during Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's visit to Ashkhabad on questions of military cooperation between Turkmenistan and the Russian Federation is very different from Turkmenistan's proposed draft agreement on joint armed forces for the two countries. First and foremost, the status of the troops stationed in the republic has changed. Why is that?

[Otchertsov] International legal difficulties arose with the treaty on joint armed forces, of which NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA gave a detailed account. Russian Foreign Ministry experts wanted the armed forces to be affiliated to a state without fail, since international practice requires a specific state to bear responsibility for the use of an army in particular instances. In view of the Foreign Ministry's recommendations, the participants in the Ashkhabad talks tried to retain the idea of joint troops proposed by Turkmenia and backed by the Russian Defense Ministry, but emphasized their national affiliation. Hence the idea of setting up a National Army for Turkmenistan under joint command. This presupposes that orders will not be given for them to be used without the agreement of the Turkmen Defense Ministry. At the same time the concept for mutual defense enshrined in the Turkmen-Russian Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation guarantees that Russia will not be embroiled in any regional conflict via these troops under joint jurisdiction since Russian Defense Ministry authorization is also required for them to be used.

[Zhukov] On what principle will Turkmenia's National Army be structured?

[Otchertsov] Military development must be based on a military doctrine formulated not so much by military men as by professional politicians on the basis of the republic's economic potential, the basic principles of its foreign policy, and its strategic position. For small Turkmenia, surrounded on all sides by larger neighbors, the

creation of its own armed forces guaranteeing the reliable defense of its sovereignty from outside aggression would be highly dubious. The optimum scenario would be for Turkmenistan to have a small formation capable of stopping unauthorized incursions by bandit formations that do not come under any government's jurisdiction. In other critical situations the republic could rely on the help of the world community or organs of collective security. However, the last session of the republic's majlis clearly aired the idea of positive neutrality and noninvolvement in blocs, an idea to which Turkmenistan must now cleave. As for the structure of the armed forces being set up in Turkmenia, they will be formed on the basis of the Kushka and Kizylarvat divisions and a number of other units of the former USSR Armed Forces stationed in the republic. So as not to disrupt the defense of our airspace and in view of the highly complex nature of the air defense system and certain air force units, we have agreed for them to remain within the Russian Armed Forces, with Turkmenistan exercising some control.

[Zhukov] How will the armed forces under joint command be funded?

[Otchertsov] On the principle of shared participation. This has effectively been included in the protocol and the draft agreement on joint armed forces and presupposes that Turkmenistan's share will be roughly 5 billion rubles [R]. Of these R4.527 billion is a lease payment for land. If it were decided to transfer the troops in Turkmenia to Russian jurisdiction, Russia would have to pay far more for their upkeep. According to rough estimates, leasing premises alone would cost R6 billion, gas would cost R253 million, water R935 million, and electricity R223 million.

The protocol signed at the meeting in Ashkhabad also makes provision for Turkmenia to meet the cost of social security for servicemen. The republic's government thinks it possible to retain political stability and confidence among officers in the national army. Officers on contract in Turkmen units can be citizens of Russia and Turkmenistan. Since personnel will be drafted from the two countries, each serviceman will swear loyalty to the state of which he is a citizen. According to the agreement, Russian officers' period of service in Turkmenistan is counted as service in Russia, so the problem of housing and pension provision is eliminated. If at the end of their period of service officers in Turkmenistan decide to take Turkmen citizenship, they will be able to do so and will receive a pension and other privileges as a citizen of the republic. If they retain their Russian citizenship, regardless of whether they return or not, officers can count on social security from the Russian Federation. Here is another important detail. During a meeting with servicemen after the signing of the protocol Pavel Grachev said that the term of service for officers in Turkmenistan is being cut from 10 to five years, and he also announced their guaranteed transfer to Russia.

[Zhukov] All the decisions contained in the protocol will be valid during the so-called transitional period. How is that defined?

[Otchertsov] I think that this period will be determined by the military policy and defense doctrine professed by Russia and Turkmenistan. There is no time limit to this period and it will last as long as the existence and status of troops under joint command is in the two countries' vital interests.

[Zhukov] Clearly the protocol will form the basis of a special bilateral military agreement.

[Otchertsov] Yes, it will be ready shortly and will be part of a package of documents including the agreement on friendship and cooperation between Turkmenistan and Russia, which has already been initialed, the treaty settling the external debt, and the treaty ensuring the activity of Turkmenia's diplomats abroad. All the documents will be signed during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's upcoming visit to Ashkhabad in mid-July.

Iranian Health Minister Arrives for Talks

LD1606131292 Tehran IRNA in English 0554 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, June 16, IRNA—Iranian Health Minister Dr. Reza Malekzadeh discussed Tehran-Ashkhabad cooperation in medical and health fields with his Turkmen counterpart Aksoltan Atayeva Monday [15 June] afternoon.

Dr. Malekzadeh who arrived in Ashkhabad Monday heading a delegation of a number of officials from several ministries, also inspected several scientific and medical centers of the city.

In continuation of his tour of the regional countries the minister will travel to the newly-independent republics of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Urges Cooperation 'In All Directions'

OW1606183192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin from "Presidential Bulletin;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Islam Karimov departed late on Monday [15 June] on a tour of South-Asian countries: South Korea, Malaysia, and Indonesia. In a short interview before take-off he said that Uzbekistan which has only recently gained its full sovereignty is seeking contacts, links, and interaction with all partners irrespective of their state structure, religion, or ideology. "We intend to follow the principles of rationality, mutual benefit, and strict adherence to universal human and national values. That should help us to keep the existing useful

ties and to enter upon a broader international scene", finds Karimov. "Our goal is cooperation in all directions", he stressed.

Further he pointed out that "Uzbekistan is interested in the experience of those countries which impress not only with their economic achievements, but also with the unusual way they gained them". He sees that special way in a combination of general laws of market economy with the national tradition.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The programme of I. Karimov's tour includes summit meetings and contacts with the public. In Seoul, Kuala-Lumpur, and Jakarta he is to sign a number of inter-state agreements for future political, economic and cultural cooperation. The businessmen and figures of culture in his train will establish direct contacts with their counterparts in Korea, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Observers expect Karimov's trip to boost Uzbek links with South-East Asia.

Uzbek President Interviewed on ROK Visit

SK1706103792 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 15 June 92 p 5

[Interview with Uzbek President Islam Karimov by Moscow correspondent O Chung-sok at the presidential office in Tashkent; date not given]

[Text] [O Chung-sok] What motivated you to choose the ROK as the first country you would officially visit after your country's independence?

[Kalimov] I am expecting more than a couple of things from my visit to the ROK. The Uzbek Republic is an Oriental country with a long history and deeply rooted tradition. I understand the ROK is also proud of its long cultural tradition and deeply rooted history. I think the time has come for two countries in the Orient, which have been alienated from each other, to understand and cooperate with each other.

In particular, I believe we need to see the ROK's economic growth firsthand and learn from it to surmount the economic difficulties our country has been suffering since its independence. I am confident the Uzbek Republic can join the group of economically advanced countries if it achieves technological development and foreign investment just like the ROK has done. From this point of view, I think there are many things I can get from my visit to the ROK. I will visit the ROK because I want to see firsthand a country that has achieved such wonderful economic growth.

[O] They say that although the situation in the Uzbek Republic is, on the whole, similar to that of each of the CIS member states, the ROK business firms find many systematic barriers here despite their desperate endeavors to promote economic cooperation with the Uzbek Republic.

[Karimov] Our country was under a socialist system for more than 70 years. Thus, no private business activity or foreign investment was necessary. In fact, very few people properly understand business management and foreign investment.

It is true that not only our government officials but also our ordinary people are not well aware of why they need to introduce foreign investments and business activity. Frankly, people's perception of capitalist-style business is still very poor in our country. I think, however, that for foreign investors, Uzbekistan is a very attractive country; it has very favorable conditions for foreign investors. We have more deposits of natural resources such as oil, natural gas, and minerals than foreigners estimate. Many Western countries' business enterprises are now rushing into Uzbek, a country rich in natural resources, to seek investments. Therefore, at present our government has to thoroughly examine and review foreign business enterprises in order to accept them on a selective basis.

I welcome ROK business enterprises' active investments in our country. I am one Uzbek who understands Koreans well. I have been deeply impressed by the 200,000 Koreans who reside in Uzbekistan. Koreans who moved to this land in 1930 according to Stalin's forced relocation policy are today the most affluent minority in Uzbekistan. This is because of their strong and tenacious national spirit and diligent nature. The living situation of these 200,000 Koreans is a mirror through which we can understand the entire Korean nation.

[O] We know the Uzbek Republic is rich in natural resources. According to reports, however, there are still many social problems in the republic because it was under the communist political system for a long time.

[Karimov] Since our republic became an independent country, our government has made all possible efforts to rapidly switch over to a free market economic system. The pace of reforming the people's consciousness, however, has failed to match the government's efforts. The communist way of thinking, which seeks only indolence by believing the government will provide everything, still has deep roots in the people's consciounsess. This is precisely the problem we face today. The most pressing problem we face, though, is getting our people to learn and master the advantages of a free market economy and, thus, to have the consciousness that only those who work hard can lead a happy life.

[O] Since the dismantlement of the Soviet Union, some Central Asian Islamic countries have undergone internal disputes caused by the advent of Islamic fundamentalism. What about the Islamic fundamentalist movement in the Uzbek Republic?

[Karimov] Our country is a most quiet country in Central Asia. I can positively declare that Islamic fundamentalism cannot take root in our country. This does not

mean that Islamic fundamentalism is bad. From a religious viewpoint, some aspects of Islamic fundamentalism deserve people's respect. Therefore, I do not intend to criticize the Islamic fundamentalist movement of our neighboring countries.

Let me reveal my personal opinion. I have found no mention about Islamic fundamentalism in clauses in the Koran, the Bible of Islam. When I visited Saudi Arabia not long ago, I asked scholars studying the Koran about this. They said there is no clause about Islamic fundamentalism in the Koran.

I do not like to refer to a neighboring country as an example, but I must say Tajikistan's internal dispute was heightened because of intervention by neighboring countries like Iran. Our country is working on a program for training young businessmen to prevent youths from being entangled in fundamentalism. Our country also plans to work out a policy that enables as many people as possible to travel abroad and observe firsthand the world's realities. From this point of view, I plan during my stay here to propose to the ROK something like a youth exchange program between our two countries.

[O] I hear that the Uzbek Republic has applied for the right to host the 2000 Summer Olympics in Tashkent .

[Karimov] It is true that your brilliant success achieved during the 1988 Seoul Olympics has always stirred us up. Let me offer my compliments for the amazing courage, spirit of cooperation, and superb organization the Korean people demonstrated during the Seoul Olympics.

Tashkent is not only the Uzbek Republic's capital but also an important city geographically located in the center of East-West transportation. I believe we can succeed in holding the Olympics in Tashkent, a city with a long history. The climate here is mild, and the people are friendly and courteous.

We absolutely need the experience and advice the ROK gained from hosting the most excellent Olympics in history. So, during my stay here, I am determined to learn from the ROK through meetings with as many businessmen and sports experts as possible.

[O] Do you plan to sign any specific agreements during your visit to the ROK? When do you think the ROK and Uzbekistan will be able to establish diplomatic relations?

[Karimov] I hope the two countries will be able to agree on the principle of long-term mutual cooperation and friendship agreements. If and when such agreements are concluded, exchanges between the two countries in all areas, including economy, society, culture, and sports, will become vigorous. It is natural and inevitable for the two countries to establish diplomatic relations. It is only that our country has difficulties in opening missions in foreign countries because it is a newly independent country. I think it is not too late to study the possibility of opening missions in other countries while steadily expanding exchanges between our two countries.

Opening the ROK mission in Uzbekistan is a pressing matter for the 200,000 Koreans residing there, and I hope the ROK Government will do something about this.

I would like to add that among the Uzbek people, which comprise some 120 different ethnic races, the Koreans are an important people, the seventh largest in number. I would also like to emphasize that Koreans are contributing to the development of Uzbekistan in all walks of life.

President's South Korean Visit Reported

WA1706133992

For South Korean reportage on the visit by Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov to South Korea, including reports on his meetings and talks with ROK President No Tae-u and other officials, please see the South Korea section of the 17 June East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Armenia

President on Nagorno-Karabakh Situation

LD1706102192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0733 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Chistov]

[Text] Brazil June 17 TASS—The international community has not yet realised the danger of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan said in an interview with the Brazilian "OK ESTADO DE SAO PAULO" newspaper published on Tuesday [16 June]. If its population is threatened with annihilation, Armenia will intervene into the conflict, which will provoke corresponding reaction of the Turkish Government, as well as of Russia and Iran. The problem can be resolved by an immediate interference of the international community by means of sending the UN peacekeeping forces to Karabakh, Ter-Petrosyan said.

The head of Armenian state was in Sao Paulo after participating in the UN conference on environment and development which ended recently in Rio de Janeiro. According to Ter-Petrosyan, during the conference he met with U.S. President George Bush and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

According to the Armenian president, the Karabakh conflict forced Turkey to abandon its position of neutrality, and now it is trying to strengthen the Azerbaijani Government. He confirmed Armenia's readiness to establish diplomatic relations with Turkey and develop all-round cooperation with it.

Answering the question of the role the CIS could play in the resolving the conflict, the president said: "The CIS does not possess the intervention mechanism and does not have any intention to do so."

Further on Demirel Meeting

LD1606200992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1808 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Yerevan—The Prime Minister of Turkey Suleyman Demirel thinks that diplomatic relations between Armenia and Turkey can be established in full volume after the conflict with Azerbaijan is settled.

At the meeting between the Turkish Premier Suleyman Demirel and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, which took place on June 14 in Rio de Janeiro at the request of the latter, the Turkish prime minister expressed the will of the Turkish side for cooperation with Armenia. At the same time in case the Karabakh conflict is not settled soon, it will be ever more difficult for the Turkish leadership to restrain Turkish public opinion which is not to Armenia's advantage.

Foreign Minister Telephones Baker on Azerbaijan

NC1606202992 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1850 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] The Armenian Foreign Ministry press service reported that Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian left Rio de Janeiro for Sao Paulo on 15 June, where they took part in a meeting organized by the Armenian community. Thousands of Armenians were present at the meeting.

On the same day, Hovannisian met the Brazilian Foreign Minister Lafer. Bilateral relations and the renewed crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh were discussed during the meeting.

Hovannisian held a telephone conversation with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the Azerbaijani aggression against Shaumyanovskiy Rayon and other regions of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The U.S. secretary of state said that he has already made demarches and will continue to do so, (?telling) Turkey and Azerbaijan that Azerbaijan's use of force and any intervention by Turkey are unacceptable.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Clashes

NC1606155992 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Statement issued by the Armenian Foreign Ministry on 15 June]

[Text] The armed aggression Azerbaijan has unleashed against Nagorno-Karabakh is steadily becoming more acute and tragic. The situation is fraught with grave and unpredictable political and military consequences for the entire region and for international relations.

The Azerbaijani Army is conducting military operations in Askeranskiy, Mardakertskiy, Martuninskiy, Gadrutskiy and Shaumyanovskiy Rayons, using tanks, military hardware, artillery and air force planes and does not even shun the use of chemical weapons.

As a result of this aggression, Karachinar, Buzlukh, Erkech, Manashid, Kharkhaput, Hay-Borisy and Russkiye Borisy villages in Shaumyanovskiy Rayon and other settlements in Nagorno-Karabakh have been destroyed. Those inhabitants of these settlements who could not hide in the nearby mountains and forests have been indiscriminately butchered.

It can be said without exaggeration that today we are witnessing a genocide perpetrated before the eyes of the world.

All this is a challenge to mankind and to the moral and political standards it upholds. The barbaric acts against a peaceful population are occurring when the international community is trying to find a peaceful political solution to the Karabakh problem.

By now Azerbaijan's military plans are obvious. They emanate from its geopolitical philosophy, which is also one of usurpation. While attempting to obstruct the Rome and Minsk conferences devoted to the Karabakh problem within the CSCE framework, Baku is concentrating forces in Nakhichevan, Ordubadskiy and Zangelanskiy Rayons in order to open an Azerbaijan-Nakhichevan corridor through Armenia's Megrinskiy Rayon. This is obvious and further comment is unnecessary.

At least two things must be obvious to those Azerbaijani circles which at the end of the 20th century have decided to solve national self-determination and human rights problems according to the law of the jungle and brute force:

First, by all international standards, this adventurism is considered an act of direct aggression against Armenia, which is an independent member of the United Nations.

Second, if this move somehow achieves its objective, then the geopolitical map and the correlation of forces in the region will immediately undergo changes by drawing other peoples and states into the war.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry once again draws the attention of all countries and international organizations to the Azerbaijani Republic's preference to solve the Karabakh problem through war, and the Foreign Ministry makes a resolute call to take swift and extraordinary measures to halt Azerbaijan's aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh. Otherwise, Armenia will be forced to take measures to protect the lives and rights of its compatriots.

Ministry Protests to Turkey Over Forced Landings

NC1606145692 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Statement issued by the Armenian Foreign Ministry]

[Text] Yerevan, 15 Jun (ARMENPRES)—Turkish authorities recently have been resorting to measures which contradict official statements that Ankara is striving to find a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and normalize relations with Armenia.

In violation of the 1967 interstate agreement on air transportation, which operates on a reciprocal basis, and of the responsibilities assumed under the UN and International Civil Aviation Organization, and clearly distorting the spirit of the 28 February decision of senior CSCE officials on the arms embargo against the Karabakh combat zone, the Turkish side periodically obstructs flights over its territory by Armenian and foreign airplanes conducting regular flights or carrying humanitarian aid to Armenia.

On 18 May 1992, Turkish authorities forced Flight 833, which was carrying humanitarian aid from Great Britain to Armenia, to land at Istanbul Airport. A search of the airplane for arms naturally produced no results. On 6 June an SU-520 (TU-154) airplane, serial No. 855616, belonging to the "Aeroflot-Armenian Airlines" company and carrying 146 passengers on a regular flight from Aleppo to Yerevan had to divert 1,000 km from its flight path at the demand of the Turkish side and land in Ankara, where it was held for nearly seven hours. Not content with the fruitless search for arms, the pilot was isolated and questioned. Questions put to him about Armenia's civil and military aircraft, his military rank, and about the prospects of Armenian-Azerbaijani relations went beyond the Turkish side's declared official pretext for detaining the pilot.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry recently stated that it would expand its harsh demands on flights to Armenia and the forcing of technical landings at Turkish airports to search cargo and passenger luggage.

At the same time, it is significant that the Turkish side is taking no measures to control the arms supply to Azerbaijan, which is a party to the Karabakh conflict. The Turkish interpretation of the senior CSCE officials' decision is nothing but tendentious.

The Turkish side's actions are undermining the CSCE and UN efforts to settle the Karabakh problem, and particularly is obstructing the Minsk conference on Karabakh and the holding of the economic cooperation conference between the Black Sea basin countries. In general these actions are heading toward further aggravating the regional situation.

The Armenian side protests such acts by Turkey and calls on it to resolve the existing problems through dialogue. The Armenian Republic is ready immediately to begin such talks.

ARMENPRES Reports Government Statement

NC1606185892 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Statement issued by the Armenian Government on 13 June]

[Text] The Azerbaijani leadership through its latest actions has nullified its political declarations and clearly has chosen to torpedo the peaceful resolution of the Karabakh problem under the aegis of the CSCE. Under the cover of hysterical anti-Armenian propaganda in the mass media, Azerbaijani Armed Forces attacked Nagorno-Karabakh on 12 June by expanding their operations from Agdam towards Askeranskiy and Martuninskiy Rayons. These operations now have transformed into aggression against the entire territory of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic.

Nearly 100 tanks and other armored cars, military helicopters, SU-25 bombers, multiple-rocket launchers and other types of artillery are being used in the war against the peaceful population. Toxic chemical bombs have

been dropped during the attack on Shaumyanovskiy Rayon, causing numerous injuries. The number of casualties and amount of destruction is growing, as is the confrontation and the threat that it will expand and further destabilize the regional situation.

Grossly violating its obligations as a UN and CSCE member, Azerbaijan launched large-scale combat operations against Armenia on 9 June. Massive attacks were launched against Armenia's Noyemberyanskiy, Idzhevanskiy and Tavushskiy Rayons, resulting in many casualties among the peaceful population.

A large concentration of forces is being observed in Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic's Ordubadskiy Rayon and Azerbaijan's Zangelanskiy Rayon. The objective is to strike at Armenia's southern regions.

Reiterating the profound concern and alarm expressed in the Armenian Foreign Ministry's 12 June statement on the course of developments, and remaining loyal to the peaceful means and methods for resolving the conflict, the Armenian Government appeals to the international community to take effective measures to immediately halt the Azerbaijani combat operations. These combat operations aim at eliminating the population of Nagorno-Karabakh and at dragging Armenia into a large-scale armed conflict.

The Armenian Government declares that responsibility for further aggravation of the conflict rests entirely with the Azerbaijani leadership.

Government Calls Up Reserves for Training

NC1606181192 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1650 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] The Armenian Government adopted a decision on 16 June to organize and hold three-month training sessions for the reserve forces. The decision orders the following:

1. The Armenian Defense Ministry and the Armenian Military Commissariat must organize on 16 June the drafting of 35-year-old conscripts—who are registered in the first category of the first group of reserve forces—in three-month training sessions by including various military specialists, such as tank and artillery crew [words indistinct] and others in these training sessions.

2. The rayon, city, and city-rayon soviet executive committees must provide the military commissariats with places and services for training sessions, as well as ensure that conscripts present themselves to the military commissariats and depart for the national gathering point.

3. The Armenian Internal Affairs Ministry must ensure law and order at the training sites, at the bus stations, and along the roads on which the troops are moved. The ministry also must force those conscripts who have not presented themselves at the training centers to appear.

4. The Armenian Transportation and Communications Ministry must ensure the timely transportation of the conscripts in accordance with the schedule of the Military Commissariat.

5. In accordance with the 29 April 1992 decision of the Armenian Government, the [words indistinct] and medical commissions to organize work in connection with the three-month training sessions.

The Armenian Defense Ministry is tasked with implementing the decision.

Supreme Soviet Presidium Appeals to Russia

NC1606202392 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1850 GMT 16 June 92

[Text] In line with the Supreme Soviet's decision, Supreme Soviet Chairman Babken Ararktsyan called a joint meeting of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and representatives of the party and parliamentary groups to ascertain (?their stance) [words indistinct] concerning the second phase of the Supreme Soviet debate on the Karabakh problem's political aspects.

Before touching on these matters, the participants exchanged information on the latest developments in Nagorno-Karabakh and the current situation.

Due to disturbing reports received at the last moment, Ararktsyan proposed that discussion of the items on the agenda be postponed and that instead a Supreme Soviet Presidium meeting immediately be convened to consider a package of necessary measures and to issue a relevant statement in the name of the Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The Supreme Soviet Presidium during its session adopted an appeal addressed to the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Statement Issued

LD1706102492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0805 GMT 17 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan June 17 TASS—The Presidium of the Armenian parliament expressed concern over the future of relations with Russia in connection with the transfer of Russian weapons to Azerbaijan and the participation of Russian Armed Forces on the Azerbaijani side in the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

"The Azerbaijani aggression in Nagorno-Karabakh is acquiring a threatening character" and is carried out with "participation of armed units which are under Russian jurisdiction and were in one hour handed over to Azerbaijan," the Presidium said in a statement late on Tuesday [16 June].

Azerbaijan is implementing its policy aimed at a complete deportation of Armenians from Karabakh and there are no doubts in Yerevan that the offensive is

intended to break up the CSCE conference on Nagorno-Karabakh to be held in Minsk, the document stressed.

Opposition Party Demands Government Resignation

OW1606171892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1637 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The influential Armenian opposition revolutionist party "Dashnaktsutyun" said the recent events in Nagorno-Karabakh, namely the occupation of the Shaumyanovskiy region by Azeris, as the result of the shortsighted policies of authorities in Yerevan. The party demanded the resignation of Levon Ter-Petrosyan's administration.

In the statement published in the party's newspaper "Erkir" (Nation) Tuesday [16 June], the central committee of the "Dashnaktsutyun" said that the current regime in Armenia defends the principle of the inviolability of borders, not wishing to understand that "as part of Azerbaijan in any capacity Karabakh is doomed". The leaders of the party feel that this position "overtly of covertly supports the small empire of Azerbaijan where new hot beds of the national- liberation struggle are springing up".

Reportage on Nagorno-Karabakh Fighting Continues

NC1606161592 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] [Passage indistinct] Azerbaijan is massing armed units and military vehicles on Nagorno-Karabakh's border. The Armenian self-defense forces are defiantly fighting to ward off all the enemy attacks and drive the enemy units from their positions. They are close to achieving their objective.

The Azerbaijani Army has lost nearly 300 men during the past few days. The number wounded is even higher. We wish to note that Turkey, which tries to present itself as impartial, is indirectly taking part in the region's military operations. Turkish military officers are training Azerbaijani troops to improve their combat skills. In some cases, they have directly taken part in military operations. We have received reports that Turkish officers are advising Azerbaijani troops in the military unit based around Butkashan in Azerbaijan.

The situation in Armenia's border rayons continues to be tense. The neighboring republic is criminally using the armed units and military equipment it has deployed in its border rayons against the peaceful residents in Armenia's border rayons. The Republic's Gorisskiy, Kapanskiy, Noyemberyanskiy, Idzhevanskiy, and other rayons have been intensively fired on with various types of arms including tanks, armored vehicles, and Grad rockets. The enemy fired on Sunik and Deganush in Kapanskiy Rayon at 0100 on 15 June, resulting in damage. The industrial and economic establishments in the rayon were greatly damaged. Nevertheless, Armenia retaliated in all directions and attempted to silence the enemy's positions.

In concluding our report, we note that the Armenian self-defense forces shot down a TU-25 aircraft over Askeran city at 2100 on 13 June. Pilot Vagif Kurbanov, who had been declared a national hero by Azerbaijan, was killed.

Meanwhile, Azerbaijan continues its aggression. Regrettably, the number of casualties in this unjust war will be very high. Azerbaijani leaders do not wish to act justly. Political ambitions are regarded as more important than the sons of workers.

'Heavy Battles' Near Talish

NC1606192192 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1650 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] According to the latest information received from Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR], the Armenian freedom fighters have [word indistinct] Talish and Mataqis in the face of superior enemy forces. Heavy battles are continuing near Talish.

Battles are continuing in Askeranskiy Rayon. According to preliminary reports from various sources, nearly 200 Azerbaijanis died on that front. The Armenian self-defense detachments managed to repulse the enemy's offensive on [name indistinct] village in Gadrutskiy Rayon.

Srkhavent in Mardakertskiy Rayon has been liberated. Ten enemy (?tanks) were hit. [words indistinct] The Azerbaijani armed formations are receiving constant reinforcements of equipment and troops.

Experts believe that the unprecedented expansion of the conflict is directly connected to the Azerbaijan People's Front coming to power. The front's aim is to solve the Karabakh crisis militarily. The experts believe Azerbaijan could not have trained combat-ready troops in such a short time [words indistinct] to run more than 200 tanks and armored vehicles taking part in the operation. Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sargsyan, speaking at the Armenian Supreme Soviet, said that according to reliable information, Shaumyanovskiy Rayon was occupied primarily by subdivisions of the CIS 4th Army's 23th Division at Gyandhza.

The NKR Self-Defense Forces Headquarters reported that it has learned that Turkish military experts directly participated in planning the offensive on Nagorno-Karabakh. It is not insignificant that Brigadier-General [name indistinct], head of the organizational department of the Turkish ground forces, has been appointed Turkey's military attache in Baku.

[Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian at 1730 GMT on 16 June reports: "The situation remains tense in Armenia's northeastern border regions as exchanges of fire continue all along the

border." It adds that "the monstrously tortured bodies of the three Armenian youth who were taken hostage from Tekh in Gorisskiy Rayon were exchanged for Azerbaijani hostages." The radio adds that the Azerbaijanis are continuing to shell Kornidzor and Khndzoresk in Gorisskiy Rayon and Davit-Bek, Kenis and Keganos villages in Kapanskiy Rayon. The radio also says that the border is tense in Vartenisskiy Rayon and that "Krasnoselskiy Rayon is coming under intensive shelling at present."]

Russian Role Reported

OW1606132792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1252 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] It has been reported from the HQ of Nagorno-Karabakh self-defence force that in Tuesday's [16 June] offensive into the Mardakert district carried out by the tank force of the 23rd Division, Russia's 4th Army, the villages of Talish, Tonashen, Chaily, and Madaghiz have been captured.

In Talish, with up to 9,000 Armenian refugees concentrated there earlier, hundreds of people have been killed. Civilians were shot at point-blank with machine-guns, tanks, and artillery—goes the report of the self-defence HQ. Bitter fighting goes on in the Mardakert district.

Last night Armenian self-defence units recovered the village of Srhaven seized by Azeris June 13.

In the Askeran district the Azeri forces still control the villages captured last week-end: Nakhichevanik, Prdjamal, Akhbulakh, Arandzanim, Dagraz. They constantly have reinforcements from Agdam.

Informed sources in Yerevan inform that Tuesday afternoon two battallions of Azerbaijan's army supported by 20 armoured personnel- carriers attacked the village of Zod, in the Vardenis region of Armenia. Both attackers and defenders sustained heavy losses.

Srkhavend Village 'Liberated'

LD1606161892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] According to SNARK agency, the Nagorno-Karabakh self-defense forces have liberated the village of Srkhavend in Mardakertskiy Rayon. They also repelled attacks by Azeri troops on other rayon centers of the region. Battles on the Nagorno-Karabakh border continue.

Official Comments on Nagorno-Karabakh Talks

OW1706130792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1218 GMT 17 Jun 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia's Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kazinyan told DP's [Diplomatic Panorama's] Yerevan correspondent in an exclusive interview that whether or not representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh will participate in the CSCE's forthcoming Minsk conference on Karabakh will depend on two factors.

First, the conference's organizers, led by Italian representative Mario Rafaelli, must send invitations to Stepanakert drawn according to the formula envisaged in the CSCE documents, which means that the invitation must be extended to representatives of Karabakh's legitimate authorities.

Second, very much will depend on the situation in the region. Kazinyan said that the termination of Azerbaijani aggression would facilitate the participation of Karabakh's representatives in the Minsk conference. The conference on Karabakh is expected to be held on June 23.

Kazinyan also said that the previous attempts to settle the Karabakh problem were a failure largely because the Karabakh authorities were disregarded.

"Meanwhile, Stepanakert and Baku must constitute the nucleus of the talks. Without Karabakh's participation, the Minsk conference will lose its meaning and end in failure," he said.

As to Armenia's participation in this conference, Yerevan is ready to join it. Moreover, it has been advocating the idea of organizing such a forum all along, said Kazinyan. "We look at the Minsk conference within the CSCE framework as a possibility of finding a political solution to the Karabakh problem," he said.

Azerbaijan

Elchibey Comments Upon Assuming Office

NC1606195592 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Excerpts] The National Assembly convened today for the swearing in of Abulfaz Elchibey, who has been elected president of Azerbaijan. Here is a report from our special correspondent:

The National Assembly convened in the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet meeting hall on 16 June. Supreme Soviet Chairman Isa Kamberov opened the meeting. The republic's leaders, members of the National Assembly, foreign guests, and correspondents were gathered in the meeting hall. Central Election Committee Chairman Dzhafar Veliyev briefed the convocation on the outcome of the elections and disclosed that Abulfaz Elchibey has been elected president of Azerbaijan. Elchibey received 59.4 percent of the votes. On behalf of the Central Election Committee, Veliyev congratulated Elchibey and gave him the documents on the outcome of the elections. Later, Elchibey took the presidential oath as follows:

[Begin Elchibey recording] I swear that I will conscientiously use the powers of the president of Azerbaijan, fully comply with the constitution and laws of the Republic, safeguard our homeland's sovereignty and territorial integrity, (?defend) the rights and freedoms of the citizens of Azerbaijan, and confirm that I am worthy of your exalted confidence. [end recording]

The Azerbaijani national anthem was played after Elchibey was sworn in. [passage omitted]

Abulfaz Elchibey addressed the convocation:

[Begin Elchibey recording] Esteemed [word indistinct], guests, ladies and gentlemen, and our honorable and affectionate people, I took an oath before all of you and our people a short while ago. I now wish to take this opportunity to deeply thank those who voted for me for their exalted confidence. I wish to reiterate that I will remain fully committed to my oath. [passage indistinct]

Azerbaijan is experiencing a very grave situation at present. A war is being fought in Karabakh and along our border with Armenia. A part of our territory has been occupied by the aggressor. A crisis exists in the republic's economy [words indistinct]. The number of qualified cadres is insufficient. The crime rate is increasing. Meanwhile, the distortion of facts by several countries in the political, economic, and military domains has dealt severe blows to our [words indistinct]. All this and the political disputes and opposition in Azerbaijan (?have created a very serious crisis). Is there any way out of this situation? Yes, there is. With your permission, I wish to discuss several points. [passage indistinct] First, we must establish an administrative system that will safeguard our republic's territorial integrity and fully liberate Azerbaijan from [words indistinct]. The supremacy of the laws must be established. [passage indistinct] All the popular forces must be mobilized to achieve all this.

What is important at present is to establish a strong government, national solidarity, and moral unity. The establishment of a strong government requires the people's trust. The presidential elections have confirmed the existence of this trust. Regarding national solidarity and moral unity, I wish to recall the statement made by [first Azerbaijani President] Mamed Emin Rasul-zade 74 years ago [words indistinct]. All the disputes, individual enmities, and [words indistinct] must be abandoned and attention must be focused on the homeland and the people.

Considering the tense situation in the republic, I wish to note once again that at present we are prepared to cooperate with all the forces and individuals who can truthfully serve the people. [passage indistinct] Meanwhile, we must be prepared to confront every kind of overt and covert aggression. But the position held by several [word indistinct] indicates that the wish to establish friendly relations is strengthening. Azerbaijan will contribute toward this process. We must establish mutually beneficial and equal relations with the former Soviet republics, starting first with Russia and Ukraine. [passage indistinct] Azerbaijan must establish relations with the Turkic republics, Turkey, Iran, the United States, Britain, and the other countries in Europe, that is, with all the Eastern and Western countries in general, in the scientific, economic, [word indistinct], technical, and cultural fields without becoming a member of any alliance. One of our main objectives will be to remove ethnic disputes. First, however, we must rely on our own resources and strengthen Azerbaijan's defensive capability. Armenia's aggression can only be halted if Azerbaijan is strong. Meanwhile, political means must not be neglected [words indistinct]. We will try to rally all our political forces in order to maintain the defense of Azerbaijan in the political and military fields. We believe that the position held by the peace-loving forces will contribute toward settling the problem. [passage indistinct]

Azerbaijan has faced serious difficulties many times throughout its history. Nevertheless, it has drawn its stength from its people to (?resolve its problems). God willing, this is what is going to happen now. Our homeland was occupied in 1922, but we did not yield. We were subjected to every kind of (?oppression) for many years. Nevertheless, we did not lose our national pride. Hundreds of our citizes were martyred in the bloody January of 1990. Nevertheless, our will was not broken. Many of the sons of our homeland have been lost ever since the beginning of the Karabakh dispute, but we [words indistinct] and grow stronger. We are moving toward the independence and freedom of Azerbaijan. We will continue to advance in this direction. That is all I have to say. God help us all. Thank you for your attention. [end recording]

Supreme Soviet Chairman Kamberov congratulated President Elchibey once again and wished him success.

Further on Goals

TA1606165092 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1600 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Irfan Sapmaz report from Baku]

[Text] [Begin Abulfaz Elchibey recording in Azeri; from the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet] I swear that I will obey the Constitution and laws of the Azerbaijani Republic, that I will protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country to my utmost ability, that I will protect the rights and independence of the citizens of the Azerbaijani Republic, and that I will try to be deserving of our people's trust. [end recording]

Popular Front leader Abulfaz Elchibey, who was elected president on 7 June from among the five candidates in the first democratic presidential elections, was sworn in this afternoon and officially assumed his post. After the congratulatory messages were read, he came to the rostrum amidst great applause. He called on the political

and social forces of the country to unite to resolve the problems of the country and stressed that he is ready to cooperate with them.

Elchibey then said that Azerbaijan is not considering joining any political organization. During the first stage, he said, Azerbaijan will establish bilateral relations with Russia and Ukraine, and later with the other CIS countries.

On relations with foreign countries, Elchibey reiterated that Azerbaijan will make efforts to develop its relations especially with Turkey, the United States, Britain, and the Western countries.

He stressed that he favors the establishment of a Caucasus union. For this, he said, we have three conditions and they are:

1. The inviolability of borders.

2. Noninterference in domestic affairs.

3. Respect for independence.

Meanwhile, a cording to information received from the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, the Azerbaijani national army is advancing toward Lachin, which was taken by Armenia a while ago.

Also, Cengiz Mustafayev, the Azerbaijan Television correspondent who was fatally shot in the head yesterday during the clashes in Nakhichevanik in the Agdam region, was buried today in the Martyrs' Cemetery in Baku.

Elchibey Comments on Russian Relations

LD1206143592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Russia is one of Azerbaijan's most important priorities, said Abulfaz Elchibey, newly elected president of the republic, in an interview in ARGUMENTY I FAKTY. Azerbaijan will strive for an equality-based dialogue with Moscow. At the same time, a lot depends on Russia and the processes which are taking place there. Anyway, the Azerbaijani Government is unequivocally in favor of the broadest bilateral, mutual political relations. Any other approach would be politically shortsighted and even adventurist, Elchibey stressed. Touching upon ways to settle the Karabakh conflict, the president mentioned the main principles: the territorial inviolability of Azerbaijan and cultural autonomy for the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Kamberov Says Parliamentary Elections 'Soon'

TA1606062192 (Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish to Cyprus 0500 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Isa Kamberov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan, has said that his country will promote its relations with the Central Asian Turkic republics, adding that parliamentary elections will be held soon.

Speaking during a news conference he held in Baku, Kamberov replied to questions by journalists on developments in Azerbaijan and especially on the recent fighting in Karabakh. Pointing out that Armenia plans to extend its occupation of Azerbaijani lands, Kamberov said that the Azerbaijani Army has initiated operations in order to prevent this aggression by attacking Armenian centers of action. Kamberov said that these operations are still continuing and that important results have been achieved so far.

Meanwhile, in a statement it issued, the Azerbaijan Popular Front executive committee has called on democratic and peace-loving countries to support the Azerbaijani people in the face of the Armenian aggression.

It is reported that the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh have explained their absence from the CSCE conference in Rome by the fact that they were not invited as a full-fledged member.

Deputy Prime Minister Gives News Conference

LD1706141292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] On 16 June the newly elected president of Azerbaijan, Abulfaz Elchibey, was inaugurated in Baku. Today Mr. Khikmet Gadzhizade, deputy prime minister of Azerbaijan for relations with the CIS countries and plenipotentiary representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Moscow, gave a news conference in Moscow. Our special correspondent, Andrey Zenkov, was present:

[Begin recording] [Zenkov] The Velvet Revolution in Azerbaijan has brought to power a truly democratic government, said Mr. Khikmet Gadzhizade. Today Baku is quiet. Democrats do not take revenge against their former oppressors. All political parties have been allowed. There is no special censorship in the press. Economic reforms will be implemented in the very near future.

[Gadzhizade] They will begin from the reduction of government spending, the reduction of the state apparatus, and the reduction of the budget deficit. Later we will introduce decentralization and allow private enterprise. Foreign trade will also be liberalized. Only our most strategic resources will be controlled, but otherwise there will be complete freedom. As far as our own currency is concerned, Azerbaijan is preparing itself for this, but we believe that it would be premature to introduce it now.

[Zenkov] According to Gadzhizade, his state does not yet want to join the CIS, giving preference to bilateral treaties between Azerbaijan and other countries. Speaking about the relations between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh, the plenipotentiary representative said:

[Gadzhizade] We believe that it is only lawful to take the stand which follows from the principles of the United

Nations and the CSCE. This position is as follows: Borders must be unviolable. It is on this very principle that the last 40 years of peace in Europe have been based. Karabakh is an inseparable part of Azerbaijan, and Azerbaijan will ensure that national minorities will have all the rights to preserve their national individuality. We are willing to hold talks with the leaders of the Armenian community. This would be the right way to express this in judicial terms. We are willing to hold talks with everyone who is interested in a settlement of this conflict. However, we will not talk with those want to separate from Azerbaijan. This is not acceptable. This the official point of view of our government. [end recording]

Further on Remarks

LD1706132192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 17 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The post of Azerbaijani deputy prime minister for affairs of the former USSR has been instituted in Baku. Gadzhizade, the authorized representative of that country in Russia, has been appointed to the post.

[Video report shows Gadzhizade at news conference] We definitely intend to follow a policy of liberal reform similar to that being implemented by the current Russian leadership, said Hikhmet Gadzhizade, the reappointed authorized representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Russia and deputy prime minister, at a news conference today. He talked about the inauguration of President Elchibey, and stressed in particular the fact that the president has been blessed by both the spiritual head of Muslims in the republic and by an Orthodox archpriest.

On the Karabakh problem, the deputy prime minister noted that the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh is diverting the republic from the most important thing—the democratization of society and economic reform. In his words, there has virtually been no reform implemented in Azerbaijan for four years, but the need for reform is more acute than ever.

[Begin Gadzhizade recording] Links between Azerbaijan, Russia, and the other former republics of the USSR will continue to strengthen. After all, they are the most important to us today. Azerbaijan will continue to cooperate with Russia first and foremost. However, this cooperation will now be built on an equal and mutually beneficial basis. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Statement Condemns Armenia

LD1606162292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1330 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Baku, 16 Jun (AZERINFORM-TASS)—"As a result of Armenia's irresponsible actions, events in the region are taking an unpredictable turn and may have the most tragic consequences, not only for the peoples of the two states but also for the entire subregion." This is stated in an Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry statement issued today through AZERINFORM channels for the mass media.

In the last few days, the document states, "the actions of Armenian armed formations on the border with Azerbaijan and in Nagorno-Karabakh have assumed unprecedented scale." Artillery and armored equipment, aviation and helicopter forces are being used from the occupied territory to carry out mass shelling of the adjacent areas, and "scorched earth" tactics are being used. Almost one-quarter of Azerbaijan has been turned into frontline and near frontline zones. About half a million inhabitants of the border area and the districts adjoining Nagorno-Karabakh have left their homes and have become refugees in their own land.

The Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan, noting that over 150 settlements have been depopulated because of unceasing shelling and attacks, and that the war "is being extended by the actions of the aggressor" and becoming irreversible and large-scale, is nonetheless doing all it can to achieve a political resolution of the conflict. In the ministry's opinion, "Armenia's destructive stand at the CSCE-sponsored interstate talks, the wrecking of the Rome agreements, and the lack of desire to come to any kind of acceptable compromise" mean that tough intervention by UN and CSCE peacemaking forces and "effective sanctions against the aggressor" are required.

The statement points out that, "as has become known from reliable sources, the Armenian Government is preparing a massed attack" to seize new land along the entire Azerbaijan-Armenia border. The Foreign Ministry firmly and resolutely declares that in the event authoritative international organizations prove unable to rapidly halt further expansion into the territory of sovereign Azerbaijan, and the continued occupation of its territory, the republic retains the right to mobilize its entire potential to uphold its independence and territorial integrity.

Fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh Continues

Chemical Weapons Use Noted

LD1706090392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0000 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Excerpts] According to a report from the press center of the Internal Affairs Ministry of Azerbaijan, the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and in the border areas of Azerbaijan continues to remain difficult. This is what Azer Khalilov has to say about it:

[Begin Khalilov recording] The Defense Ministry of the Republic of Azerbaijan reports that the military operations by the Azerbaijani national army are continuing to free the towns and settlements of the republic from the Armenian armed military formations that have invaded. As reported by the Defense Ministry, on the night of 15

to 16 June practically all the villages of Kazakhskiy and Zangelanskiy Rayons of Azerbaijan, as well as villages in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, were intensively shelled from missile and artillery installations in the territory of Armenia. As a result of these shellings the Azerbaijani side has dead and wounded. Among them are many women, children, and old people.

After the general offensive on the Agdam sector of the military operations, the fighting men of the national army of Azerbaijan are strengthening their positions.

After the offensives by Armenian formations, an expert examination was conducted in Fizulinskiy Rayon during which confirmation was obtained of the use of cyanides and toxic chemical substances in the missiles.

The Defense Ministry reports that an offensive has been started on Agderenskiy Rayon in Azerbaijan in the Nagorno part of Karabakh. At 0200, the village of Khanabad, which lies to the south of that area, was captured. At present, battles are being waged to liberate Askeran.

Contrary to the reports of the mass media, the ministry states that the Azerbaijani National Army is not engaged in capturing the territory of the Nagorno part of Karabakh, but in liberating the territory of the Nagorno part of Karabakh from Armenian military formations. [end recording]

This is what our correspondent Armen Dulyan reports from Yerevan:

[Begin Dulyan recording] There is an intensified concentration of live forces and equipment in Ordubadskiy Rayon of Nakhichevan and Zangelanskiy Rayon of Azerbaijan. In the opinion of observers, this is evidence of the intentions of the Baku leadership to open a corridor between Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan through the territory of Megrinskiy Rayon of Armenia and thereby to deprive Armenia of its border with Iran. [passage omitted]

At the same time, according to data from the Ministry of Defense of Armenia, large accumulations of Azerbaijani formations are being observed not far from the Lachin humanitarian corridor along which aid to Karabakh is continuing to be delivered. There is every indication that in the immediate future, the leadership of Azerbaijan will undertake an attempt to close that sole land road linking Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia. [end recording]

Advance on Lachin Reported

NC1606200892 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] There was no significant change in the deployment of troops on the Azerbaijan-Armenia border last night or this morning. The Azerbaijan Defense Ministry press center has told an AZERINFORM correspondent that Armenia has maintained its combat operations and fired on several border towns in Zangelanskiy, Kubatlinskiy, and Kazakhskiy Rayons with various types of arms, including artillery guns. The situation was similar in Terterskiy and Fizulinskiy Rayons, which border Armenian residential areas in the mountains of Karabakh.

The military command headquarters has disclosed that the situation toward Lachin has changed somewhat. Azerbaijan Armed Forces units are moving to enter Lachin, which was occupied some time ago by Armenian armed units. Several men have been wounded. No information has been disclosed about the number of casualties.

Armenian armed units fired on Ashagy Buzgov, Yukhary Buzgov, and [name indistinct] in Babekskiy Rayon and Sadarak in Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic on 15 June. One person was wounded in Sadarak. Reports said that Armenian units infiltrated Babekskiy Rayon and tried to advance on Yukhary Buzgov. One of our fighters was killed and five others were wounded in the ensuing battle. The enemy advance was halted.

Nakhichevan To Receive Turkish Food Aid

LD1606152692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1350 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By unidentified AZERINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Nakhichevan, Azerbaijan Republic, 16 Jun—"Turkey will render all-round aid to blockaded Nakhichevan," Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Supreme Majlis of the autonomous republic, declared on local television. After returning the previous day from the neighboring country, he announced the results of his talks with President Turgut Ozal and Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, his meetings with repesentatives of Turkish business circles, and his part in the work of the international economic congress in Izmir. It follows from the Nakhichevan parliamentary head's address that the treaty he signed provides for supplies of food worth $10 million to come from Turkey in the near future. Turkish partners are also ready to render assistance in resettling refugees, modernizing enterprises, and developing the agro-industrial complex of the autonomous region.

'Militants Hinder' Russian Unit's Withdrawal

LD1606202592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1806 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Baku—In Dallyar (Azerbaijan) local citizens and militants hinder withdrawal of a unit of Russian Air Force. Practically all the military planes have been broken, as local citizens and militants throw small stones in the nozzles of their engines to prevent their flight away to Russia. The planes cannot be transported as it is necessary to change their engines for new ones. Two military transport planes, IL-76, with families of the military and with their household items, still cannot fly off, as they are blocked.

According to some sources, in Dallyar some 700 militants are present, who together with local citizens rob flats, take away door and window frames, screw out sockets and switches, take away basins, gas stoves etc. At present, in Dallyar some 400 people of the personnel are still present, including 250 officers and ensigns, 77 soldiers and sergeants who serve their term, 18 families, 6 children and personal things of the military who had to be transported back to Russia. During one of the last nights, three servicemen were missing when they had gone to replace their mates on the posts.

Kurdish State Restored in Lachin Territory

OW1606174592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1636 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The constituent assembly of the National Liberation Movement and the social and political organizations of the Kurdish people was held in the Azeri regional center Lachin Monday [15 June].

Reliable sources told "IF" [INTERFAX] that the "Declaration on the Revival of the Kurdish State on the Territory of the Lachin, Kubatlin, Kelbadzhar, Dzhebrail, and Zangelan Regions of Azerbaijan" was passed at the assembly. The Kurdish national autonomy existed on this territory in the 1920's.

Elections to the Kurdish government will be held July 17. In the meantime, the Kurdish Liberation Movement will act in the government's place.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Says Republic in 'State of War'

LD1706143792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0730 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze has met personnel from the Georgian militia. Now he has met police representatives. Summing up the results of the meeting, Eduard Shevardnadze stressed that Georgia is now effectively in a state of war and that police operations are exceptionally difficult under these conditions. The police have to shoulder exceptional responsibility for law and order in the situation which has developed. He reminded the personnel of the Ministry of Internal Affairs that on 15 June the State Council's decision on the detention of all armed persons not in barracks comes into force. He called on police officers to act decisively against transgressors.

Kitovani Warns of Possible Use of Force

MK1706125092 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 17 Jun 92 p 2

[L. Dolidze report: "Kitovani Warning"]

[Text] Your KURANTY correspondent asked Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani to comment on the current situation in South Ossetia.

"I very much want to have grounds for optimism," T. Kitovani said, "and I very much want to believe the North Ossetian side, which recently conducted very important dialogue with E. Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian State Council. However, if the constant attacks on Georgian villages and terrorist acts against Georgians do not stop, we will regrettably only have one option—to use force, something that I have always been against. I have said this repeatedly and I say now: It is not difficult for the guardsmen to capture Tskhinvali. We can literally occupy all the territory of so-called South Ossetia in a few hours, but we are opposed to resolving this problem by force."

Firing Reportedly Continues in South Ossetia

LD1706144192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] The last 24 hours have brought no significant changes to the critical situation in South Ossetia. According to information from the republican Supreme Soviet and the North Ossetian Security Ministry, intense firing from grenade launchers, mortars, and heavy machine guns was directed at Tskhinvali from strategically convenient heights on the outskirts of the Georgian villages of Nikozi, Tamarasheni, and Ergneti. The peak of firing occurred at night. Eight civilians were wounded. In the morning four more with severe wounds were added.

There is also a report from Tskhinvali that during the intense night shelling yesterday the prominent Ossetian actor Malerib Nayarbek Dzhoyev was killed. Shelling of the administrative center is going on even now. Subunits of the Ossetian guards and the self-defense detachments are returning fire to neutralize the firing points of the Georgian formations.

80 Percent of Homes Destroyed

LD1606163492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 16 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] South Ossetia—Tskhinvali is under rocket and mortar bombardment for the fourth consecutive day. According to Ossetian sources, 80 percent of residential homes have been destroyed in the city, and all its economic enterprises are out of order. More than 10 people have been killed and 22 have been wounded in this region in the past 24 hours alone.

State Council Discusses Khasbulatov's Remarks

LD1606192592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Georgian State Council today held an emergency session in connection with the statement by the speaker of the Russian parliament.

[Correspondent N. Gongadze] Misgivings about the future of Georgian-Russian relations and the fate of the centuries' old links between the two peoples was expressed today by the Georgian State Council in its appeal to the citizens of Russia and its Supreme Soviet. Yesterday's appeal by Russian Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov was perceived as an attempt to set our peoples at loggerheads. It also threatened to tear a considerable part of Georgia's vital historical reality away and was qualified as a crude violation of a sovereign state's territorial integrity and other standards of international law.

The Georgian State Council has been and remains a champion of a peaceful settlement of the conflict and this is supported by all the democratic people of the republic, the appeal says.

[Begin Shevardnadze recording] The most important thing now for me personally and for my colleagues is not to permit any complications here in Georgia itself, I mean for the Russian population, it is the Russians I am talking about. There were no problems in the past 3 to 4 months, there were no problems in relations between Russia's troops and the local populace. On the contrary, we cooperated constructively. But now there may be complications. Yesterday some very dangerous symptoms appeared. Now we must now take this situation in hand and take control of it so that people do not suffer. [end recording]

Adopts Appeal

LD1706045992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2123 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By SAKINFORM correspondent Eduard Ediberidze for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi, 17 Jun—The Georgian State Council, concerned about the future of Georgian-Russian relations and the fate of the centuries-long ties between the peoples of Georgia and Russia, adopted an appeal to Russian citizens and Russian people's deputies on 16 June. It says: "We recognize the unprecedented nature of such an appeal. We, however, did not give it its dimensions; Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov chose the dimensions with his 15 June appeal which essentially caused our peoples to quarrel."

The appeal says: We see our aim to be that of averting a threatening development of events which may be provoked by this patently ill-considered document. Georgia favors continuing the best relations possible between our countries and peoples; however, let no one be mistaken on our account, for "no matter how small Georgia is, it will not allow anyone to use the language of imperial dictate when it is addressed."

The process we have begun with the Ossetian side will pass in the spirit of the two peoples' responsibility for the state of affairs in the region. Outright interference in this process will inevitably lead to the opposite, the document notes.

Responds to Remarks

LD1706111792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0730 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov's statement on South Ossetia possibly joining Russia has been considered at a session of the State Council of the Republic of Georgia. Members supported Eduard Shevardnadze's statement, which accused the Russian speaker of interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign and independent Georgia and stressed that actions like this could wreck the peaceful process of talks. The State Council described Ruslan Khasbulatov's position on South Ossetia as an attempt to make the peoples quarrel. It has adopted an appeal to citizens of Russia and people's deputies of the Russian Federation on this matter. I will acquaint you with this document. It says:

Esteemed citizens of Russia and people's deputies of the Russian Federation: Our appeal to you is dictated by concern for the future of Georgian-Russian relations and for the fate of the many centuries of ties between the peoples of Georgia and Russia. We are aware of how unprecedented such an appeal is, but it is not we who have made this so important. It is Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Russia, who has chosen on behalf of the citizens of the Russian Federation to make this so important by, in his appeal to you on 15 June, essentially making an attempt to make our peoples quarrel. Yes, that is precisely what it is.

By describing the conflict in the Tskhinvali region as genocide and mass exile of the South Ossetian ethnic entity from its own historical homeland, he has willy-nilly heaped the blame for the continuing bloodshed on the whole Georgian people. One can draw no other conclusion in view of Khasbulatov's direct threats to examine the question of South Ossetia joining the Russian Federation in the Russian parliament, in other words the question of tearing away from the Georgian people a considerable part of its vital historical reality. This effectively allows for the possibility of annexation of part of the territory of the Republic of Georgia, which is a crude violation of the principle of territorial integrity of sovereign states and other norms of international law.

We consider it necessary to state that appeals of this kind rank alongside well-known statements by certain state and political figures in Russia supporting an economic blockade of Georgia, which only serves to whip up

tension in the region and to worsen relations among nationalities and among states. The hallmarks of autocratic, imperial thinking show clearly in all this, an echo of the days when powers dictated their will to little states from a position of strength. That is our appraisal of Ruslan Khasbulatov's statement.

The State Council is just as resolute in expressing its reluctance to enter into discussions with the speaker of the Russian parliament. We seek to prevent the threatened development of events that could be provoked by these clearly ill-considered and hasty documents, which are deeply insulting to our peoples. Indeed, it is in no way coincidental that certain well-known media hastened to report the tension that had arisen between Georgia and Russia. This is happening at a time when an agreement has been reached with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia on concluding a major treaty between our countries, when the head of the Russian state has expressed a desire to take part personally in the process of peaceful settlement in the Tskhinvali conflict, and when there is a delegation from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tbilisi on the instructions of Boris Yeltsin looking at a proposal to establish diplomatic relations between us. The statement-ultimatum has come at a time when veterans of service in Afghanistan have come to Tbilisi from all ends of the former USSR and are discussing the question of taking part in settling internal conflicts and forming joint multinational peacemaking subunits, the mission of which would be to stop the shooting and bloodshed in the Tskhinvali region.

We wish to say to the democratic public in Russia that according to the ancient truth, the guilty will answer to the people. At the same time, our nation is made up of people who want to live in peace with the Ossetians in accordance with traditions of many centuries.

We are particularly astounded that the speaker of the Russian parliament kept silent while the conflict was being provoked by the former regime, yet now that peaceful settlement of the conflict has become the state policy of Georgia he has raised his voice.

It is not to the speaker of the Russian parliament but to all the honest people of Russia that we wish to say that the statement of 15 June grossly distorts the picture of the real state of affairs in Tskhinvali region. There is not a word about the peacemaking efforts of the past 4 to 6 weeks, or about the fact that following the withdrawal of Russia's internal troops from the conflict zone we refrained from replacing them with units of the Georgian Armed Forces, as a result of which their positions were taken by Ossetian armed formations.

The 15 June statement emphasizes Georgian pressure on a small contingent of Russian troops, but does not say a word about an attack by Ossetian irregulars on a sapper regiment and the capture of their military property. There is not a word about the combat materiel getting into the conflict zone from Russian territory or the volunteers defending—and the latter word is in quotation marks—the southern borders of Tskhinvali, about the hundreds of Georgians killed, maimed, and burned, about the dozens of villages reduced to ashes, or about the thousands of Georgian refugees, just like the Ossetians, languishing far from where their hearths lie in ruins.

There is not a word about the efforts the Georgian leadership is making to return all refugees, regardless of their nationality, to their original homes. The refugees will go home and peace will be restored to that long-suffering land. We are doing everything to bring this about. Georgia is in favor of continuing the best relations between our countries and our peoples.

Let no one be under any delusions about us: Georgia may be small, but it will allow no one to speak to it in the language of imperial dictate. Russia has its own internal problems, we know, but they must not be resolved at the expense of others. The negotiating process we have begun with the Ossetian side will be conducted in the spirit of the responsibility the two peoples bear for the state of affairs in the region. Crude interference in this process will inevitably have the opposite result. An example of this is there for all to see, and we do not need to strain our eyes to see the consequences of such interference. Conflicts inflamed from without are raging only too close to our borders.

For our part, we will do what we have to: We will turn into reality our policy of a peaceful solution to the Tskhinvali conflict. If we do not, we will not realize our dream of a free and independent, democratic Georgia. In this we are counting firmly upon the support of progressive and democratic Russia.

Minister Sets Up Joint Guard With Abkhazia

LD1606213692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Report by correspondent N.Kandiashvili; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani took off for Sukhumi yesterday. Sixteen minutes after takeoff, the aircraft returned to Tbilisi airport. There had been a telephone call about the possibility that the aircraft would be blown up. Fortunately, it turned out to be a false alarm and the delegation eventually took off for Sukhumi.

After talks with the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Abkhaz ASSR, a decision was taken to set up a joint interethnic guard subordinate to the Georgian Defense Ministry and to the appropriate authorities in Abkhazia. After the meeting, the sides noted that this treaty will fully stabilize the situation in Abkhazia. [video shows interview with Kitovani onboard aircraft]

[Begin Kitovani recording] A so-called republican national guard has been set up and it will be subordinate—with dual subordination—to the defense ministries of Georgia and Abkhazia. [end recording]

Disarmament Agreement Adopted

LD1606214192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Jun 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Here is another report from Georgia: An agreement to disarm military units has been adopted at the talks in Sukhumi between representatives of the State Council and the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet.

Ways To Reduce Tension Discussed

OW1606213992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani, who is in Sukhumi now, put forward an issue on transferring the Abkhazian company of internal forces to direct subordination of his Ministry. Sources in the Abkhazian capital report that the head of the republican parliament resolutely refuted this proposal. According to the Georgian Internal Ministry's press center, issues on disarmament and disbandment of unlawful armed detachments acting on the Abkhazian territory were also discussed. The situation in the republic was seriously aggravated after Abkhazia formed its own guard, and the Georgian part of the population in this autonomous republic formed a motor-rifle battalion.

People's Front Leader on 13 Jun Gori Events

LD1606195992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1808 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Tbilisi—On June 16, Nodar Natadze, leader of Georgian People's Front, referred to actions of the military tank regiment of the Russian Army in the city of Gori on June 13 as a direct aggression against the population. Nodar Natadze demanded to withdraw Russian troops from Georgian territory. He does not deny that at present Georgia cannot do without military aid from Russia, but he calls on withstand [as received] occupants who are at the territory of the republic, that will allow us to assert that Russia is in fact waging an undeclared war against Georgia. Nodar Natadze reckons it is necessary to stress that in Tskhinvali district not a conflict between Georgians and Ossetians is taking place, but a conflict between Russia and Georgia, which will permit draw Western states to setting up of armed forces of Georgia and will oblige the world to help technically to a small country which is defending itself against a large country, against its aggression. [sentence as received]

A political organization, Khartiya-91 held on June 15 in Tbilisi near the building of the headquarters of Transcaucasian Military District a protest action in connection with the events of June 13 in Gori. The address of Khartiya-91 adopted at the meeting says: Presence of the occupational Army of Russia on the territory of Georgia stamps on the republic's state interests, the nation's honor and is the main factor of constant destabilization. In this situation, Georgian State Council should put forward an official declaration and demand withdrawal of occupational troops out the republic's borders, and start wide-range talks with Russia only after this is achieved.

Political, Economic Agreements Signed With Iran

LD1606195492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1608 GMT 16 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran, June 16 TASS—A Georgian governmental delegation headed by Georgian Acting Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua ended its three-day visit to Iran by signing five documents aimed to boost political and economic cooperation between the two states.

The documents include agreements on cooperation in trade, communications, transportation, export of Iranian gas and abolition of visas for holders of diplomatic and service passports.

The Georgian and Iranian foreign ministers signed a joint communique to exchange diplomatic missions, hold consultations on regional issues and set up a joint economic commission.

The delegation also met with Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Iranian foreign minister and the minister of transportation and industry.

Prime Minister Satisfied With Visit

OW1706142892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1333 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Having returned from Tehran to Tbilisi in the evening the day before, the Georgian Premier Tengiz Sigua characterized the outcome of his visit to Iran as successful. Wednesday [17 June] in his interview with journalists Sigua reported that during negotiations with the Iranian leadership agreements on establishing embassies, deliveries of Iranian gas to Georgia totalling 2 billion cubic meters of natural gas were signed. Georgia agreed to let its ports at the Black Sea coast to Iranian vessels and permitted to ship Iranian goods through the Georgian territory.

According to Sigua, "a new stage beneficial for both sides has begun in the relations of two countries".

Estonia

Prime Minister Vahi on NATO Meeting Outcome

LD1706104892 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0600 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Interview with Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi by correspondent Juhan Virkus, date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Virkus] Early in the morning, at 0215, Prime Minister Tiit Vahi arrived back from a NATO council working meeting in Greece. You were in fact given the floor on the first day of the working meeting?

[Vahi] The Baltic issue was one of the main issues at this working meeting, and the first (?session) on the first working day began with my speech. I spoke about the security problems for the Republic of Estonia. [passage omitted] Representatives of all NATO member countries unanimously demanded that the Russian troops withdraw [words indistinct], including the Russian envoy (?Murashkin). He too agreed in fact that it is not in accordance with international norms to have foreign troops deployed on the territory of another state, and yet he immediately demagogically raised the issue of housing and wanted to run the discussion into the sand over the housing issue. [passage omitted]

The West expects the Baltic countries—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—to cooperate more between themselves, and of course they undoubtedly wish for the development to take place peacefully. This would also serve as a good model for those countries where the transition is not taking place in a peaceful manner.

[Virkus] How could and would a NATO state support us?

[Vahi] On our part the issue has been raised that the Western states' assistance—assistance from NATO member states—should be tied to the issue of the Russian troop withdrawal because the Russian troops in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are the key factors for instability. We want the troop withdrawal (?to feature prominently) in the aid program. Our side said that aid should be provided in fact only if it really would go toward resolving the problems which have been raised by the Russian side, thanks to which the troops cannot be withdrawn from here. [passage omitted]

[Virkus] Might it be possible that Estonia, too, for example, becomes a NATO member in the near future?

[Vahi] We did not discuss this issue at the working meeting, but undoubtedly talks on the subject of how Estonia could have closer cooperation with NATO were held before this meeting as well as during this meeting. I raised the issue of NATO setting up an information center in Tallinn. [passage indistinct] I am also pleased that the protocol department (?on the organizers' side) presented me with an invitation to the next NATO working meeting in (?Athens).

Trade, Investment Agreement Signed With Norway

OW1506190592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1834 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Norwegian and Estonian Foreign Ministers Thorvald Stoltenberg and Jan Manitski signed in Tallinn Monday [15 June] the bilateral agreements on free trade and protection of investment.

Speaking at a press conference after the signing ceremony, Stoltenberg noted that Norway intends to allocate money for the construction of housing for military servicemen of the former Soviet Army to be withdrawn from the Baltics, under the condition that it should not be built near the border with Norway. He also said that Oslo will help prepare Estonian border guards, provide them with uniform and communication means.

Commenting on the withdrawal of troops from the Baltics, the Norwegian foreign minister pointed out that his country will be raising this issue at every meeting with Russian representatives. On the same day the Norwegian foreign minister left for Riga.

Norway Supports Troop Withdrawal Demands

LD1606182992 Tallinn Radio Estonia in English 2030 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Following on from the signing of the trade treaty, the Norwegian foreign minister, Mr. Stoltenberg, said at the press conference that the Norwegian Government supports demands to withdraw Russian troops from Estonia. He added that the only thing Norway can do to help speed up the withdrawal is to bring the issue up at every meeting with representatives of Russia and to stress the importance of the withdrawal.

The Estonian foreign minister, Mr. Manitski, said that the Soviet troops must be taken out of Estonia within 200 days. He said that it's obvious that [words indistinct] and was expressly opposed to the idea of interference by third party countries.

The Norwegian foreign minister announced that would take part in the financing of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops but he added, it has to be made clear that the houses for the withdrawn troops must not be built near the Norwegian border. Mr. Stoltenberg also promised that the Estonian border guards will get assistance with training and with the supply of uniforms and liaison equipment.

IMF Approves Preparations for Monetary Reform

OW1506190792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1834 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Representatives of the International Monetary Fund [IMF] who are visiting Estonia described the work done in the republic on the technical preparations for the monetary reform and stabilization of the economy as "impressive", Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi told a news conference of the government Monday [15 June].

He said that although recently IMF representatives believed the reform can be carried out not earlier than this fall, now they are convinced it can be implemented in the near future. The only thing remaining is to sign an agreement with Russia on mutual settling after the introduction of the Estonian kroon (the signing of the agreement is scheduled for this week).

IMF representatives told the Estonian premier that Estonia can expect to receive financial aid of the IMF for stabilizing the kroon already in September.

Deputy Minister Meets SRV Counterpart on Trade

OW1706143792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1352 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vietnam's deputy minister for trade and tourism Le Kim Lang and his Estonian counterpart Raivo Kutt met in Tallinn on Tuesday [16 June] to sign an agreement on the principles of bilateral trade.

Vietnam is keen to import Estonian-made chemicals, particularly carbamide. For its part, Vietnam's traditional export products such as coffee, rice, and spices as well as rubber are of interest to Estonia.

People Mark 1941 Mass Deportation to Siberia

LD1506081892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1017 GMT 14 Jun 92

[By ETA—TASS]

[Text] Tallinn, June 14 TASS— "The mass deportation of 51 years ago, on June 14, 1941, has remained in the memory of the Estonian people as an unforeseen event—the people just did not consider a manifestation of such inhumanity possible precisely in this republic and precisely at that moment," says an address to the Estonian people by the Head of State Arnold Ruutel.

"At least 8,000 people were banished to Siberia. Many of them died along the way and many remained in a strange land, thousands of kilometres away from Estonia. Only few of them were destined to ever see their native land again.

"That was an attempt by an alien government to diminish resistance to the occupation and to the forcibly imposed ideology. At the same time that was the beginning of yet another stage of age-old aspirations to populate Estonia with aliens and thereby remove the right of its people to a state of their own from the agenda forever.

"Our duty to the victims of June 14 and subsequent acts of violence is to do away with the legacy of the occupation of Estonia as soon as possible and, through an endorsement of the fundamental law and elections to the State Assembly, to achieve a stable democratic political system called upon to protect their people in the best way," Arnold Ruutel pointed out in his address.

Latvia

Foreign Minister Reports on NATO Session

OW1606184092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1816 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Monday [15 June] at a briefing in Riga the Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans said that Latvia managed to persuade the West that the real obstacle on the way to withdrawal of the former USSR's armed forces from the republic lays in the strategic interests of Russia in the republic, its ports, free access to the Baltic Sea, system of communications, he declared at the NATO working session in Athens last week.

He reported that the session passed a resolution qualifying "the illegal" presence of the Russian army on the Baltic territory and absence of a concrete schedule of forces' withdrawal as unacceptable.

Jurkans also noted that the session discussed the programme of military assistance to Baltic states. Given the impossibility of Latvia's becoming a NATO's member in the near future and a great and inhomogeneous membership of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council impeding its functioning, the near prospects in the creation of the common security systems are to be laid upon the initiatives of the West European Union, Jurkans emphasized.

Further on NATO Session

LD1606214492 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2030 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] The problems of Baltic security were the main issues on the agenda of the ninth NATO Cooperation Council conference which took place in Athens last week, said Latvia's Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans, stressing that this had been one of the most interesting meetings during his career as a diplomat.

He said that leading NATO generals and outstanding Western European and American public figures took part in the conference. Speaking at a press conference

today Jurkans said during discussions in Athens several political strategies were presented with a common aim to stabilize economy and stabilize democracy in Europe.

The foreign minister emphasized that Europe was still well disposed toward Russia and was inclined to show understanding in its problems and willingness to help it overcome economic hardship. According to Jurkans he refuted statements made by the Russian envoy who claimed that the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic states is being hindered by housing problems in Russia. The start of the actual pullout is being delayed due to Russia's strategic interest in the region and any other argument is just an excuse said Foreign Minister Jurkans.

The conference also passed a resolution denouncing the presence of Russian troops on the territories of the Baltic nations and called the lack of fixed pullout dates (?or) timetables as unacceptable. A resolution called on the international community to do what it can to promote the start of troop withdrawal.

Withdrawal 'Should Be' Considered by ICJ

OW1206160592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1448 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy of the Europarliament Ole Espersen who is in Riga now said during his talks with Vice-Chairman of the Latvian parliament Valdis Birkavs that the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Latvia should be considered by the International Court of Justice [ICJ].

Birkavs told BF [BALTFAX] that the appeal to the International Court of Justice dealing with the occupational regime in Latvia had been drafted even before the August putsch. Latvia was not a member of the UN, though.

Birkavs believes that Russia attaches greater importance to its strategic interests than to inter-governmental agreements. He illustrated his statemenet by quoting leader of the Russian delegation to the talks with Latvia Sergey Zotov, who said that Russia will not withdraw its troops from Latvia during two years, even if all the necessary facilities are built for its servicemen in Russia.

IMF Recommends Economic Policy Changes

LD1506123792 Riga Radio Riga International in Latvian 0430 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] IMF experts believe that the government of Latvia must choose either to accept the recommendations of the IMF, and thus also the credits, or to attempt to solve its problems independently. Ultimately there should be no illusions. According to the predictions by the IMF experts, there could be a 30 percent drop in production in Latvia this year alone.

The IMF experts, who after two weeks' work in Latvia briefed the heads of the Supreme Council's permanent commissions on their recommendations, categorically disagree with the budget deficit envisaged for the second half-year, which is currently projected at 1.7 billion rubles. Therefore the experts have drawn up a plan of commitments orientated toward eliminating the budget deficit and putting the economy of Latvia in order in the direction of the market economy.

It has been proposed that Latvia accept the comparatively severe conditions, otherwise the credits of that influential world organization will be denied. The IMF recommends, first, the cancellation of any restrictions on profit and turnover taxes. These at present apply to new enterprises and the government had planned with them to promote the development of entrepreneurial activity. At present foodstuffs are free of turnover tax, in view of the income level of inhabitants.

The second demand is to fix uniform import duty tariffs, at 15 percent on all goods. It is recommended that subsidies to farmers, and also state bank credits, be minimized so as to free loan interest rates and fixed prices on agricultural goods.

In the opinion of the visiting experts, a changeover to world fuel prices must also be effected in the nearest future, and these costs should be borne directly by the consumer.

Simultaneously with these rather severe steps, the wages of those working at state enterprises must be restricted and any increase should be kept below price inflation. The IMF recommends, therefore, that wages funds be formed at enterprises, with substantial penalities imposed for not joining.

Addressing deputies, one of the IMF experts said: Only you will decide on the adoption or otherwise of these proposals. However, at the same time it must be considered, what alternative is there? For a short time you will, of course, be able to bribe the people with easy credits and subsidies, but after that a rapid constriction of production will follow.

At the plenary sitting Finance Minister Elmars Silins said that the recommendations by the IMF experts must be taken into account. Also the draft budget of the second half-year has been compiled with these recommendations taken into account.

Radio Becomes Independent of Government

LD1706092992 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] As of today the state enterprise Latvian Radio has become an independent institution and gets its own general director. In the second vote today, the plenary session of the Supreme Council elected by 67 votes musicologist Arnolds Klotins as the general director. To qualify for election as general director, 66 votes were needed. We congratulate him on his victory.

Lithuania

Landsbergis Discusses Relations With Poland

OW1606184192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1816 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the Lithuanian Parliament Vytautas Landsbergis believes that an interstate treaty between his state and Poland might be developed quicker. Nevertheless according to Landsbergis, the relations between the two countries are "not bad" at present.

In his interview with the Lithuanian agency Elta the Lithuanian leader refuted the information spread by the Polish press and saying that he stands against the elections to the local soviets in Vilnius and Shalchininki regions of Lithuania. Landsbergis declared that in contrast to this the "Sajudis" coalition put forward a proposal to conduct these elections simultaneously with the elections to the Seimas autumn this year.

Local soviets in the above mentioned regions where Polish population prevails were dissolved by the Lithuanian parliament in September 1991 as the leadership of the Soviets was accused in its participation in a coup's attempt in the former USSR.

Landsbergis on Russian Military Presence

LD1606203892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Interview with Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Landsbergis] We needed a positive result [in the referendum on the Russian Army's withdrawal] to conduct our political activity in the negotiations with the Russian leadership, with the state delegation on the withdrawal of troops and other issues. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] When talking to our colleagues from Radio Rossii one can even hear something like, for example, that food for the servicemen has to be delivered by air to Kazlu Ruda because all the roads are blocked.

[Landsbergis] I think that in fact the actual problem is distorted by this sort of description of the situation around this base, the training grounds, and the military airport. We have had instances, which are mainly connected with this airport, of the introduction of an additional contingent of troops into Lithuania without Lithuania's consent and which even may be labelled as an invasion of a military force without permission using military superiority.

Lithuania is not able to stand in the way of such paratroopers. However, Lithuania wants to control the movements on its roads and has the right to do this. Also, Lithuania has an obligation to do this for its citizens. Therefore, this control is being carried out and especially in these cases when attempts are made to introduce into Lithuania or to disperse the airlifted troops around Lithuania.

In general, it is a silly story. Why should such provocational ventures be undertaken in the first place? [passage omitted]

Of course, means of transportation and vehicles are checked by our police and the Ministry of Defense people. I would never believe that obstacles are placed in the way of bringing in food. This is not possible. However, when soldiers who are being sent in by rail or by road are detained then we simply deport them from Lithuania. This control will continue to be carried out. However, there is no need to distort the actual situation, to present it as if Kazlu Ruda has been besieged and the training grounds are being reduced by starvation. One must not create fiction and delude public opinion. [passage omitted] We do not have any hostility towards, let us say, Russian officers or servicemen deployed here. We have on principle a negative attitude toward the presence of Russian troops on the territory of Lithuania. [passage omitted]

Estonian Kroon May Help Introduction of Lit

OW1606194992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1817 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The introduction of the Estonian kroon into circulation may speed the introduction of a lit in Lithuania, the vice chairman of the Bank of Lithuania Kazimieras Ratkevicius told "BF" [BALTFAX]. At the same time he doubts that the Estonian kroon will be introduced in June this year.

Ratkevicius reported that agreements of the Lithuanian and Estonian banks on mutual accounts after the introduction of a kroon in Estonia have not been signed yet. He believes that this problem concerns not only these two states but all the states where the rouble is circulating. Ratkevicius stressed that the recent session of banks' representatives of the rouble zone demonstrated that "the Estonian Government has many miscalculations in this sphere". He says that so far the Eatonian party did not present any draft documents on mutual accounts to be discussed now.

The vice president of the Bank of Lithuania greatly hopes for a bank session in Riga which is scheduled to be held this week. Apparently an agreement on principles of mutual accounts is expected to be reached there. "It is important for us to agree in principle, and the heads of governments are to sign corresponding documents", he declared.

"It goes without saying that we shall support the Estonians. Somebody must be the first and experience all the possible blows," Ratkevicius summarized.